

Six Classic Eisner Stories



\$1.50
No. 18

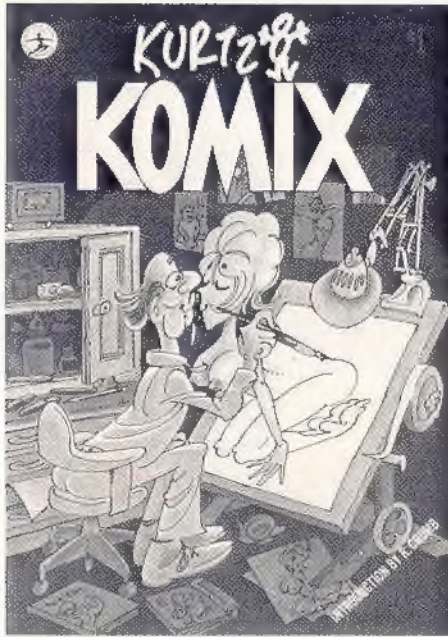
THE



Plus...

**Jules Feiffer ...And a New
Never-Before-Published Story!**

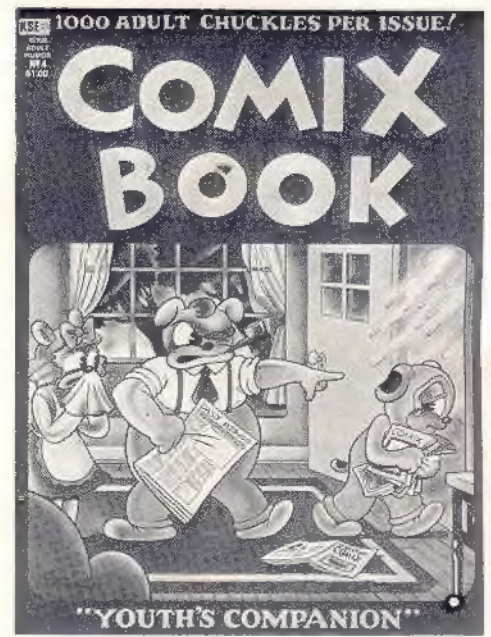
Other titles from the Kitchen Sink presses. . .



KURTZMAN KOMIX. A collection of early madcap pages by Harvey Kurtzman, the father-in-law of underground comix. Includes an introduction by Kurtzman discovery Robert Crumb. \$1.



CORPORATE CRIME. A new kind of comic book. It entertains by its very nature, yet it imparts knowledge of the deadliest kind: stories of actual white collar crimes that affect all of us daily, both directly and indirectly. \$1.



COMIX BOOK No. 4. The bastard child of a brief affair between Marvel Comics and Underground Comix. This issue and No. 5 were published after the break-up. Only \$1.



DUTCH TREAT. Tiny Holland is extremely active in the production of what we call underground comix. This collection provides a glimpse of the most active of our Dutch counterparts. \$1.



MR. NATURAL No. 3. The latest, and perhaps last collection, of one of Robert Crumb's most famous characters. A forty-four page book on white paper, not newsprint. And only a buck.



SNARF No. 3. Includes cover by Will Eisner (the Spirit batters his way into Krupp's subterranean headquarters.) Other contributions by Poplaski, Loft, Geradts, and Kitchen. Just 75¢ retail.

These are but a few of the books in our line-up. Look for these at your favorite comix outlet. If your dealer does not carry these titles, plead, threaten, harass, and implore. If all fails, you may order directly from us. (See inside back cover.)

THE SPIRIT ^{By} Will Eisner

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: WILL EISNER EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: DENIS KITCHEN

No. 18

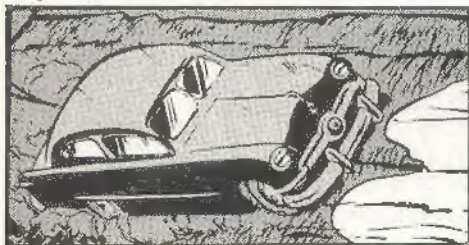
Page 2... EDITORIAL NOTE. A new comic novel by Will Eisner is about to be released.

Page 3... LETTERS from readers. For more "fan mail," see page 47.

Page 4... COMIC BOOK ART. An essay by Prof. M. Thomas Inge of Virginia Commonwealth University, excerpted from his forthcoming book, *Handbook of American Popular Culture*.

Page 5... P'Gell, one of *The Spirit's* loveliest adversaries, relates the tale of her **SEVENTH HUSBAND**.

...But, surely, not her last.



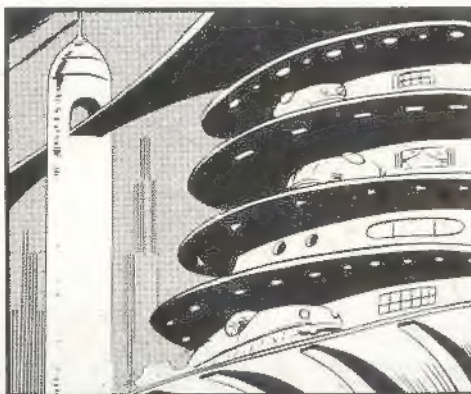
Page 12... CLIFFORD, by Jules Feiffer. Before Feiffer became famous himself as a cartoonist and playwright, he was an assistant to Will Eisner. During this period he created the "Clifford" feature which ran as the 8th page in the old *Spirit* news-



paper inserts. The style of the Clifford strip is noticeably different than the sketchy satirical strips Feiffer became known for later.

Page 13... THANKSGIVING SPIRIT. A story featuring another old *Spirit* nemesis, Carrion, along with Julia, Carrion's sidekick vulture. Or is it turkey?

Page 20... CLIFFORD.



Page 21... FUTURE DEATH. In this story, originally drawn in 1950, Will Eisner looked into his crystal ball, far into the future -- to 1970! There he saw full employment, no slums, no guns, and a paunchy and married *Spirit*.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Page 28... A SMALL BUSINESS. A new, never-before-published story by *Spirit* creator Will Eisner, demonstrating that Eisner is as inventive and talented as ever!

Page 31... BARKAROLLE. It's *Ebony's* dog, Roger, with a stolen purse in his mouth. Roger... turning to crime? Is it possible?



Page 38... CLIFFORD.

Page 39... The Spirit plays poker to win back the money a crooked card dealer cheated out of construction workers, while the mighty **MAD MOES** River rampages and "The Lizzard" tries to regain his island and fortune. A dam good story.

PAGE 46... CLIFFORD.



PAGE 47... The Spirit seldom has time to answer his own **FAN MAIL**, so Sammy and Dolan try to handle the job for him...

PAGE 54... CLIFFORD.

AN EXPERIMENT IN STORYTELLING

Norman Goldfine, President
Baronet Publishing Company

Dear Norman,

A Contract with God, which you've agreed to publish, is at long last finished and ready for publication.

It represents two years of work and many, many more years of thought and preparation. I've yielded to the nagging thought that there is much more to be said in the comic book medium than I have done so far. It is an experiment to see whether themes other than cops and robbers can be successfully dealt with in this art form.

My first effort undertakes to explore the world of the tenements in the Bronx, New York during the 30s... often called the "dirty thirties"—and to share the drama I witnessed while passing over the threshold into manhood.

Some time around 1919, when the number of decaying tenements in lower Manhattan could no longer accommodate the influx of immigrants that poured into New York City, these buildings began to spring up in the boroughs—Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. By the late 20s tenements had already disintegrated into seedy communities with the noisy neighborliness of "greenhorns" intent on making their way in America.

I have selected a quartet of stories which, for want of a better description, are "eyewitness fiction." That is to say, they are compounded of events and people I have known first hand.

I am grateful for your faith in this effort, and I hope your courage in publishing these stories will be rewarded.

Sincerely,

Will Eisner



EDITOR'S NOTE

THE SPIRIT MAGAZINE does not accept advertising. Postal regulations forbid all but "house ads" for our own publications. But I would like to give a **Free Plug** to Norman Goldfine's Baronet Publishing Co. for Will Eisner's **A CONTRACT WITH GOD and Other Tenement Stories**. I'm sure that readers who enjoy this magazine will want to know about Eisner's brilliant new comic novel, which I've had the privilege of previewing portions of.

Norman Goldfine informs me that his company will issue a limited cloth bound edition of 1000 copies prior to publication of the regular paperback edition. Each of these cloth bound books will be signed and numbered by the author.

If you are interested in reserving one or more copies, write to Baronet Books, 509 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Do not send any money with your reservation... Norman will notify you of the cost and then bill you upon publication. But write now, copies will be reserved on a "first come" basis only.

—DK



WANTS NEW STORIES

Three cheers for the long awaited return of the world's greatest crime fighter! You did nothing but improve the Spirit book. Please keep the wraparound covers --no ads on the back! A hero such as the Spirit deserves no less. And please keep the original appearance dates like you did in issue No. 17...it gives a sort of nostalgic appearance to the whole book. And, dare we ask, will there ever be new Eisner Spirit stories?

Chris Padovano

48 Embroidery Street, Sayreville, NJ 08872

Would you settle for a new Eisner story without the Spirit? See page 28. Also see the announcement on page 2.

HORN NEGLECTS NORDLING

Klaus Nordling has long been one of my favorite artists and when one of his Lady Luck stories was reprinted in Spirit No. 17, I thought I would look him up in The World Encyclopedia of Comics. I have, of course, a lot of his work from Police, The Barker, Smash, and other Quality Comics in my collection, but I thought some biographical information appropos. Well, guess what? Another fine artist who does not exist in the world of [editor] Maurice Horn. No entry. In the brief entry re Will Eisner, Lady Luck is attributed to Nick Cardy...Can it be?? Given the enormous number of errors (Ron Goulart and the Thompsons have a long list, many of which have appeared in the "Beautiful Balloons" in The Buyers Guide to Comic Fandom.) in the Horn Encyclopedia, dare we to believe this is true? The Eisner entry is really without substance. No history of the Police or Fox work or anything else free-lanced from the Eisner-Iger studio. No mention of how the Spirit came to be revived or who brought it about in the early 1970's. No mention of Sheena! Call it The Worst Encyclopedia of Comics.

Clay Geerdes

P.O. Box 7081, Berkeley, Calif. 94707

Clay publishes a monthly newsletter, COMIX WORLD, devoted mainly to underground comix. A 24-issue subscription is five bucks.

SPIRIT VS. HITLER?

I'm most pleased to see you've taken up

where Warren left off more than a year ago. I was afraid I would have to resort to hunting the Golden Age bins at comic conventions to complete the original run, which is a most expensive proposition. It is silly to offer individual commentary on stories a quarter of a century old, so I won't. The true Spirit fan wants to see all the old tales reappear. ...In Jules Feiffer's book, The Great Comic Book Heroes, he describes a Spirit story in which Adolf Hitler comes to the U.S. to explain himself. If this is an actual tale, what is the chance of seeing it reprinted? The better paper and the all-Eisner covers are a definite plus for your version. And hopefully you'll keep up the pseudo interview jam page.

Paul Zuckerman

1715 Caton Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226

The Spirit story including Hitler is a real one. However, Eisner's archives do not include the originals or proofs. So if we used it we'd have to haftone the pages from a printed booklet and the quality would not be up to par. But possibly the proofs can be tracked down. The "jam" page will continue as a semi-regular feature.

WRAITH WRITES

Being a dyed-in-the-wool Eisner fan, I was dismayed when Jim Warren ceased publication of The Spirit. Dead once again (after all, in his career, The Spirit has been published by no less than eight different publishers--surely a record of some sort!) But true to form, The Spirit has returned from the grave again. The format is great; large and thick, with that beautiful white paper. Hope you can use the enclosed picture.

Michael T. Gilbert

15 El Toyonal, Orinda, Calif. 94563

Michael is a regular contributor to comix like QUACK and STAR REACH.



COVER QUIBBLE

My first contact with The Spirit was with Ed Arpill's publications back in 1966.

Basically, I'm a Tarzan fan but when you run into something good, it's good whether it's Tarzan, Flash Gordon, Prince Valiant, or something like Star Wars. If it's good, it'll come back again and again. And The Spirit keeps coming back! A Canadian tabloid, and the Menomonee Falls Gazette, then in two Kitchen Sink issues. Then Warren grabbed it. About the time I settled in for a nice long run, it was dropped! I was really disappointed. Then The Comic Reader announced that Kitchen Sink would revive The Spirit again. Terrific!

I've received the first issue (No. 17) and think it's a fine effort. The only complaint I can come up with is the cover, which I don't feel is quite up to the first two Kitchen Sink issues. No big quibble though. The Spirit poster you offer is terrific too. Got it hanging in my classroom now.

John Rose

P.O. Box 728, La Crosse, Kansas 67548

Eisner wasn't entirely satisfied with the last cover either and has tried a new technique and approach for this issue. The full-color poster is still available from us for \$4 postpaid.

SUBSCRIPTION INFO

Keep up the good work--The Spirit is terrific. Eisner is a master!

Is there any chance you could improve distribution? Bellingham did not receive any copies.

Robin Snyder

P.O. Box 2143, Bellingham, Wash. 98225

For better or worse, our books are not distributed by the giant national distributors. Instead we work with independent regional distributors. Our network is not as large this way, and many towns cannot be reached. But in many other ways our "alternate" system is more efficient. If any readers send us the names of shops they think would carry our books, we'll gratefully add them to our dealers' mailing list. To guarantee that you receive each issue of THE SPIRIT, you can subscribe (\$6 for 4 issues, postpaid.)

LIKES SIDE FEATURES

The wait was worth it! The first "new" issue of THE Spirit was excellent. But since I doubt I can say anything new extolling the virtues of The Spirit, let me just make some suggestions. When the magazine format first came out I talked to Jim Warren and he said he didn't think reprinting any Lady Luck or Mr. Mystic stories would help sales. I'm glad to see this fear didn't stop you. "The Interview" was cute, but how about having Will Eisner write an actual column in addition to this feature? And what about printing the stories in chronological order?

Dennis Summers

524 E. Wilson Hall, East Lansing MI 48824

Comic Book Art

"Except for the attention of a few (academics) American comic art has been the most generally neglected area of popular culture until very recently. What has been written in the past has usually been of a disparaging and condescending nature by critics who at least recognized the broad appeal of the comic but who also often viewed them as subversive threats to highbrow culture and social stability. Very few were the writers who found more than ephemeral value in the funnies and comic books, and even fewer who recognized the unique aesthetics of this hybrid form of narrative art."

M. THOMAS INGE

from his chapter on COMIC ART in the forthcoming HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE to be published by Greenwood Press in 1978.

It is the intention of this essay to consider the "unique aesthetics" and the expressive potential of comic book art.

For the past 35 years, modern comic book artists have been developing in their craft the interplay of word and image. They have in the process, I believe, achieved a successful breeding of illustration and prose.

The once hybrid art form is now to be identified by its own aesthetic elements; these include the frame, the balloon, the complement of word and image, the rhythm of sequence, and the use of caricature.

This first attempt is based upon an article entitled "Reading Reconsidered" by Thomas Wolf that appeared in the Autumn 1977 issue of the Harvard Educational Review. It is summarized by the author:

"For the last hundred years, the subject of reading has been connected quite directly to the concept of literacy; . . . learning to read . . . has meant learning to read words. . . . But . . . reading has gradually come under closer scrutiny. Recent research has shown that the reading of words is but a subset of a much more general human activity which includes symbol decoding, information integration and organization. . . . Indeed, reading — in the most general sense — can be thought of as a form of perceptual activity. The reading of words is one manifestation of this activity; but there are many others — the reading of pictures, maps, circuit diagrams, musical notes. . ."

The format of the comic book presents a montage of both word and image, and the reader is thus required to exercise both visual and verbal interpretive skills. The regimens of art (eg. perspective, symmetry, brush stroke) and the regimens of literature (eg. grammar, plot, syntax) become superimposed upon one another. The reading of the comic book is an act of both aesthetic perception and intellectual pursuit.

As an example, consider the concluding

page from the Spirit story "Gerhard Shnobbles" . . . the legend of a man who is determined to reveal to the world his ability to fly only to be shot down by a stray bullet his secret sealed forever by his pointless death. The pages preceding show Gerhard soaring in and out of skyscrapers, high above the streets. He is transcending the plights of the city life below.

The concluding page depicts the pointless murder of Gerhard, as he is shot down by a stray bullet from a shoot out on a rooftop. The first panel presents the reader with the climax of the story. The protagonist and the antagonist meet and complete the theme; (Gerhard and the sub-plot of good-guy vs. bad-guy).

The description of the action in the panel can be diagrammed like a sentence. The predicates of the gun-shooting and the wrestling belong to separate clauses. The subject of "gun-shooting" is the crook, and Gerhard is the object direct. The many modifiers include the adverb "Bang, Bang" and the adjective of visual language, such as posture, gesture, grimace.

This climactic scene might be accomplished in purely verbal form, but the visual narration succeeds in directing the reader rapidly and unambiguously through the drama.

The second panel concludes the sub-plot, and again uses the language of the body and the staging of graphic design to delineate the predicates.

The final transition requires the reader to break from the convention of the left-to-right sequence. The eye follows the air stream down past a nebulous background, onto the solid body on the ground; and then bounces back upward to view the half-tone cloud in which Gerhard is resurrected. This bounce is unique to the visual narrative. The reader must implicitly use his knowledge of physical laws (ie. gravity, gases)

to interpret the movement of the scene.

The accompanying text adds some unillustrated thoughts to balance the remorse of the tale; and is hand-lettered in a style that is consistent with the sentiment that its message conveys. The visual treatment of words as concrete art forms, as so often seen on the Spirit covers, is an important element of the comic book form.

The arrangement of the page as a whole, which itself can be seen as shedding a tear for mankind, is a further variable that can be used to narrate the story.

To conclude, Wolf's reconsideration of reading is an important reminder that the psychological processes involved in viewing a word and an image are analogous. The structures of illustration and of prose are similar.

The union of word and image on the page in contemporary usage has been achieved by artists like Magritte, Apollinaire, E.E. Cummings, and the writer Marshall McLuhan. Film director Eisenstein, in 1929, called for the breaking down of the Chinese wall that stands between the "logic of images" and the "language of logic"; and certainly both film and the comic book have used montage to that end.

The Chinese language achieves a synthesis of word and image with the ideogram; hieroglyphic languages accomplish this as well. A future essay in this series will examine the likeness of the comic book format to the pictographic languages, and will also consider the aspects of the comic book that are consistent with the recent trends in reading education.

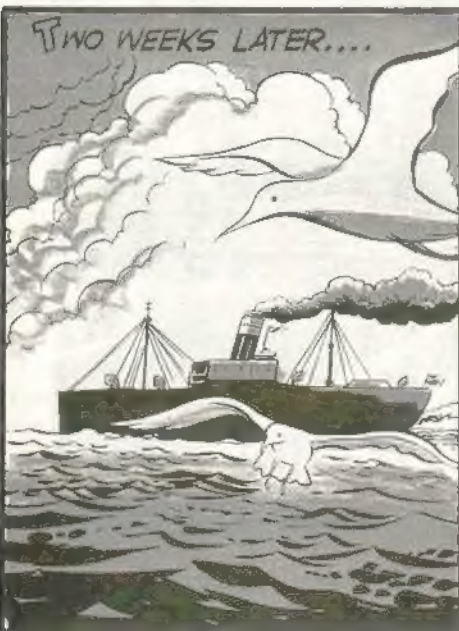
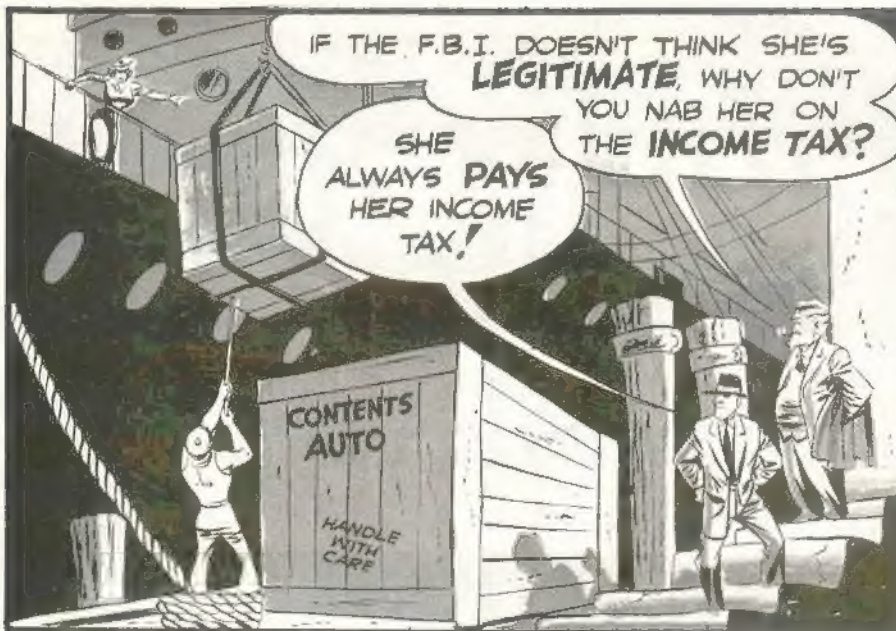


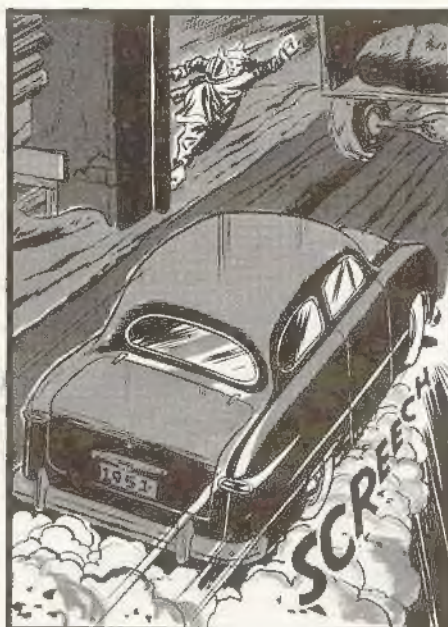
THE 7th HUSBAND

GIRLS, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO ON A CRUISE, THROUGH FAR-AWAY EXOTIC CLIMES.....WITHOUT IT COSTING YOU A CENT? IT CAN BE ARRANGED!.....MARRY A SHIPPING MAGNATE!.....LIKE THE TIME I TOOK MY SEVENTH HUSBAND, ELLIS MURDOCH...

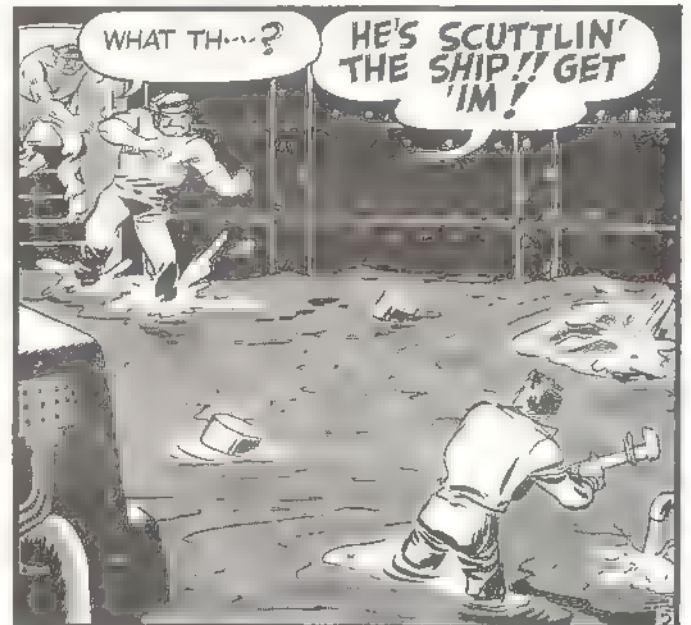
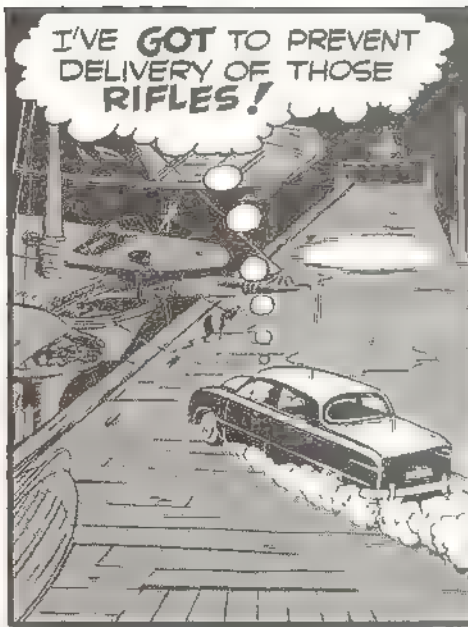
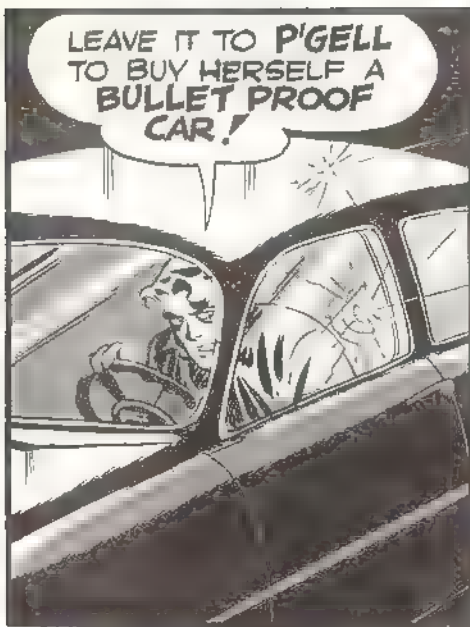


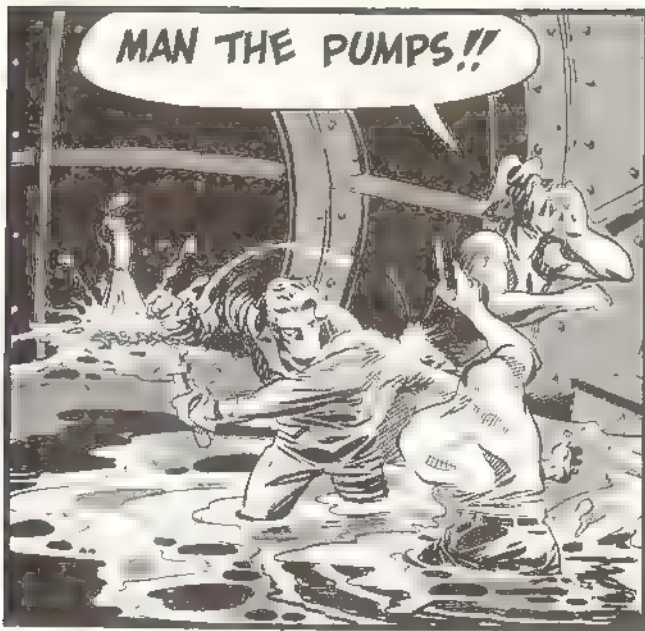
THE SPIRIT
BY
Will
EISNER











MAN THE PUMPS!!



MAN THEM
YOURSELF!!



I GOT 'IM!



LOOK!
THE SHIP'S LISTING!
WHAT'S GOING ON
HERE??



THERE HE
IS... YOU
DIDN'T GET
'IM!

I'LL GET
'IM THIS
TIME!



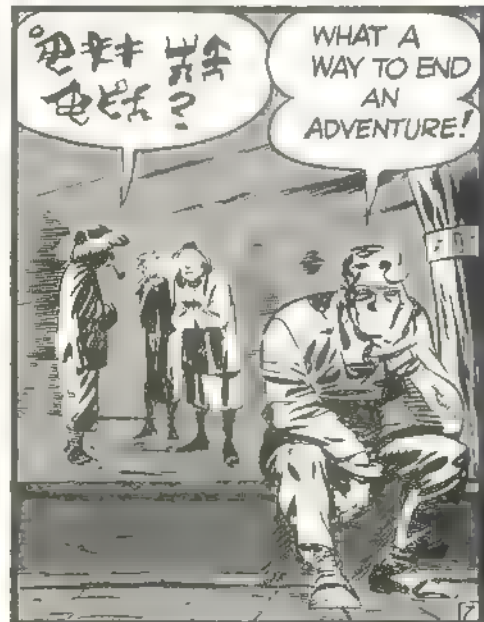
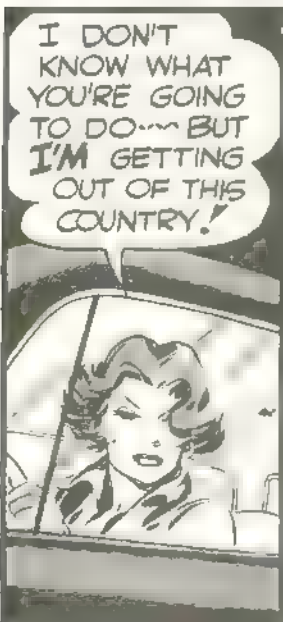
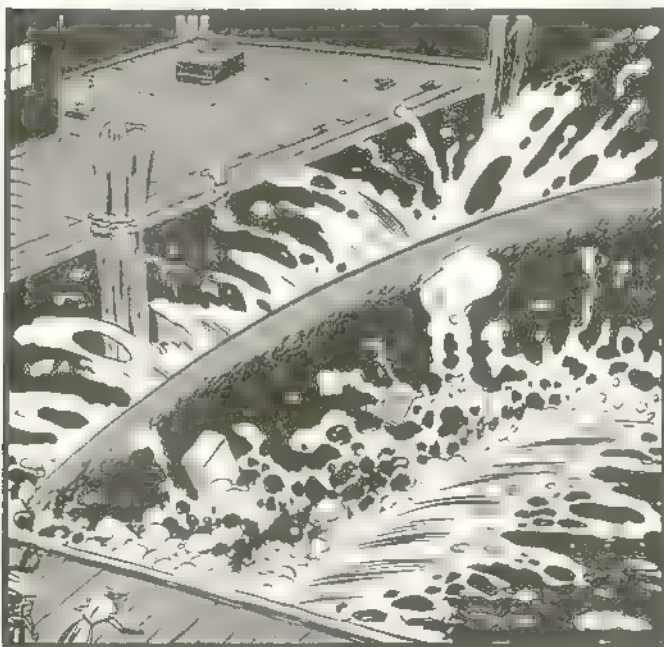
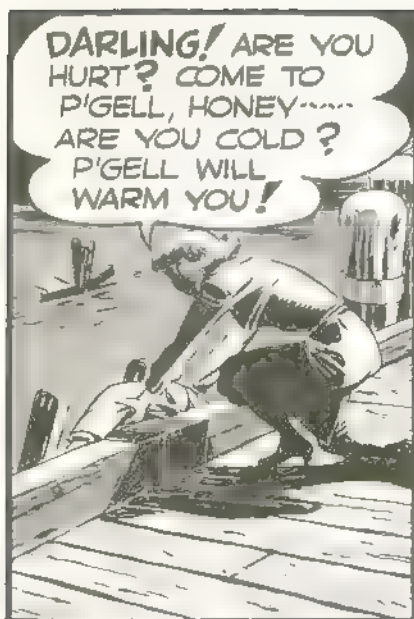
FOOLS... I... FOOLS!!



ELLIS!!



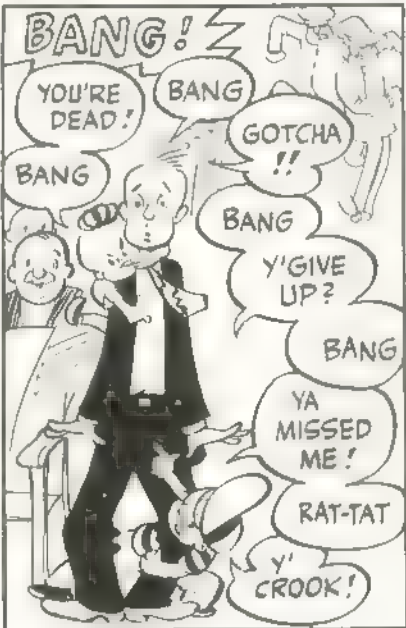
ELLIS! ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT??





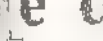
Clifford

By JULES FEIFFER

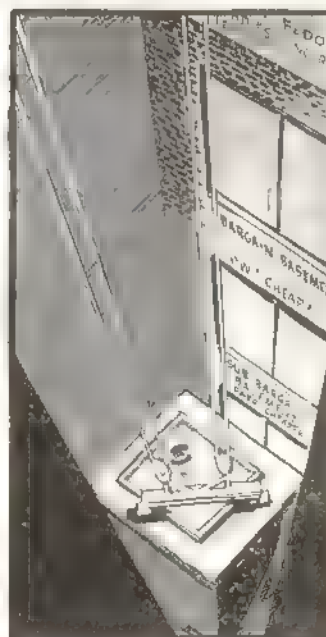
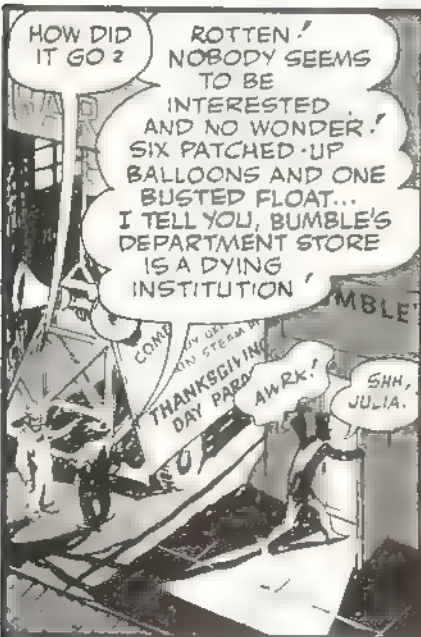
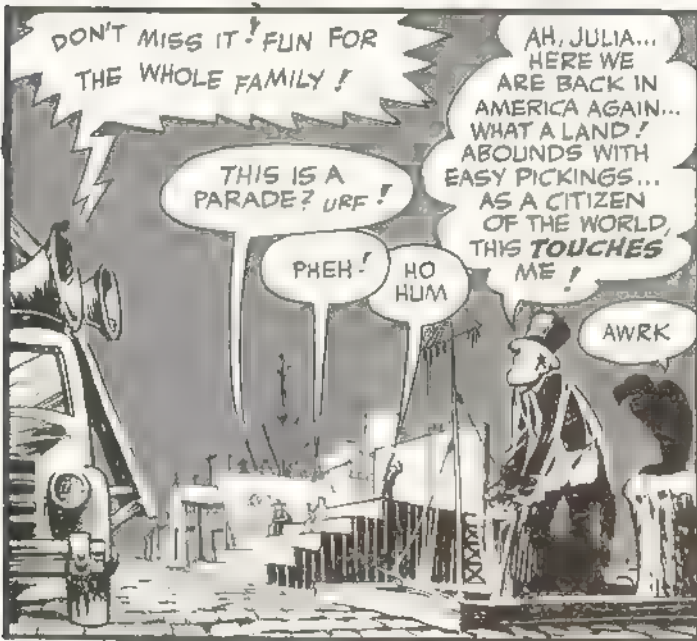
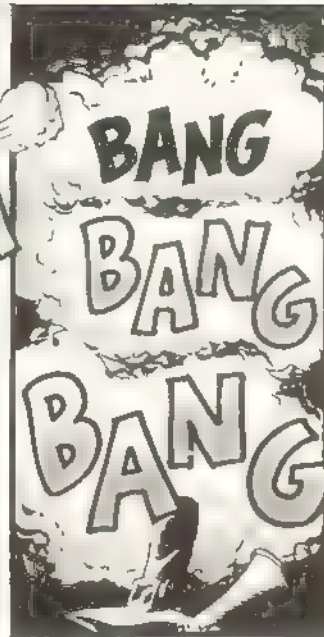


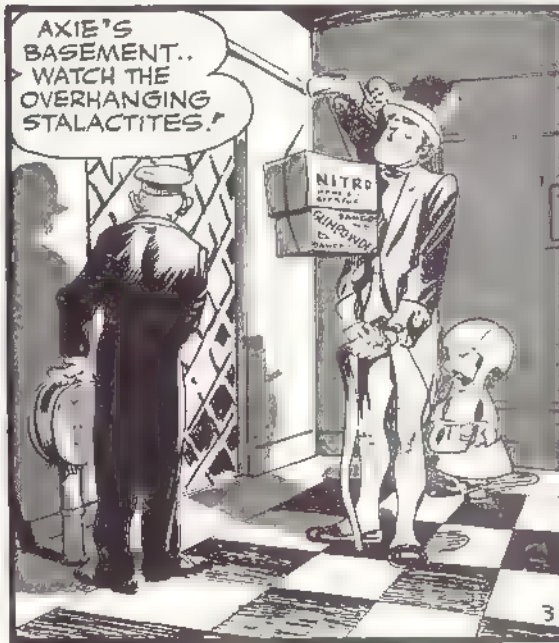
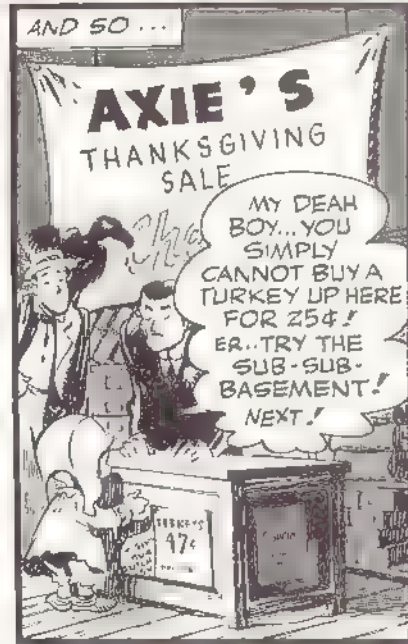
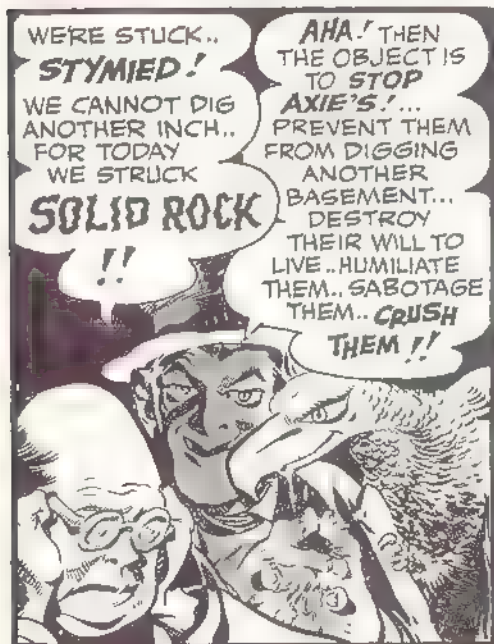
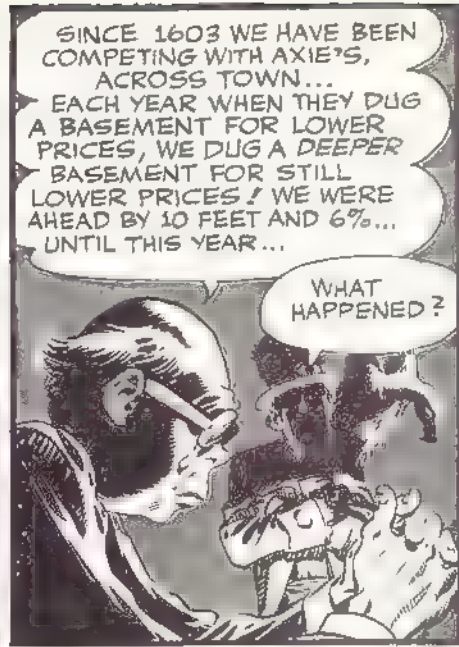
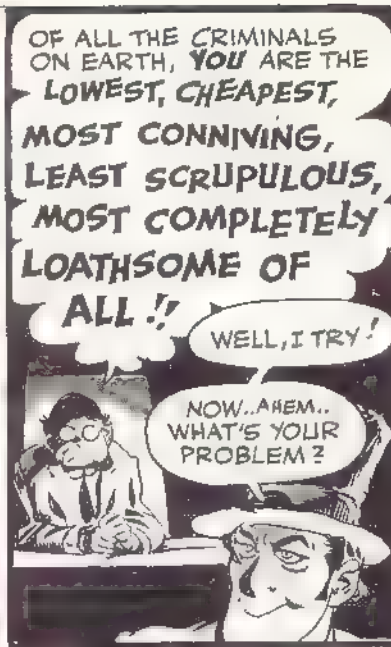
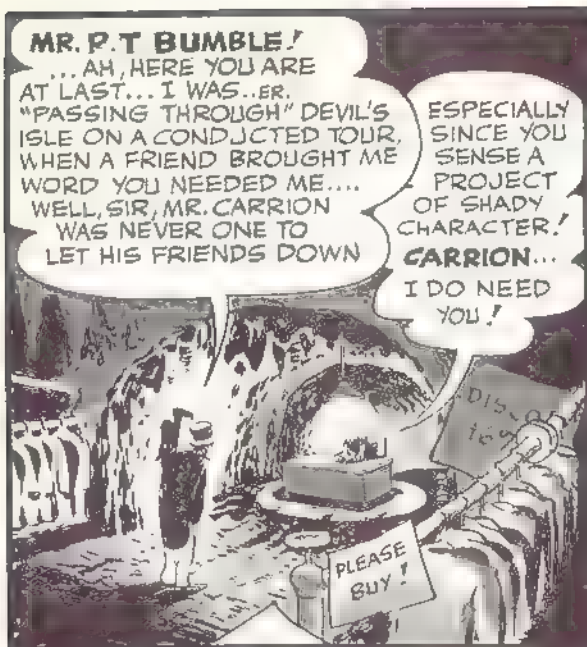
The THANKSGIVING

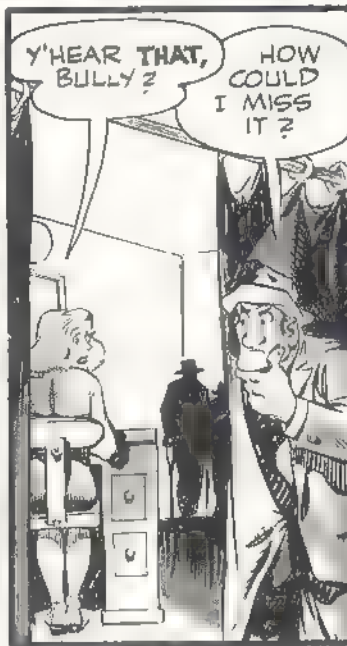
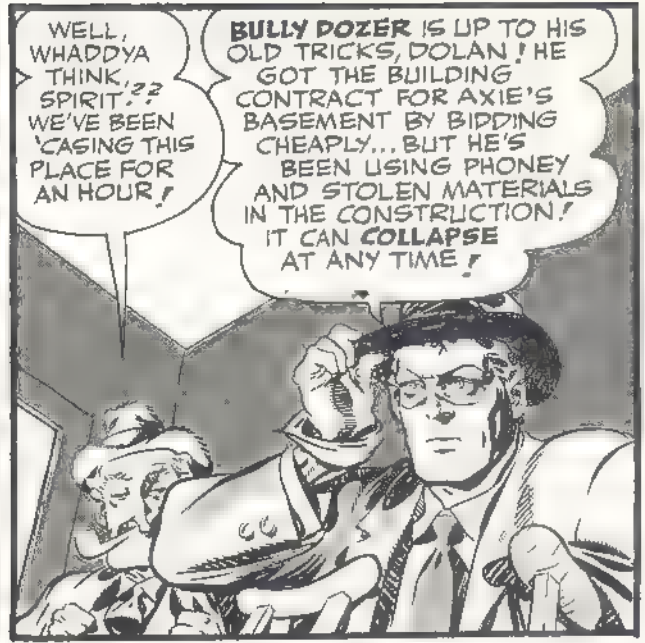
BY
WILL
EASNER

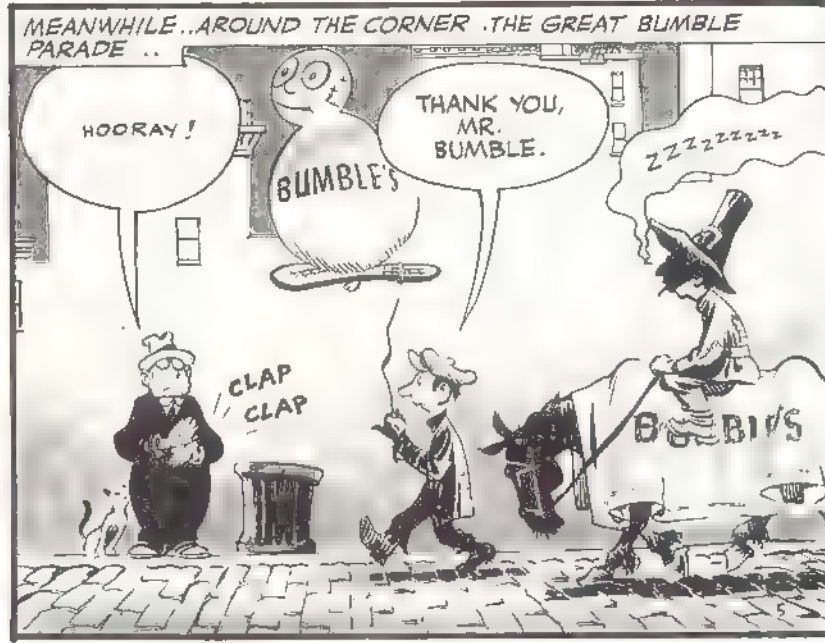
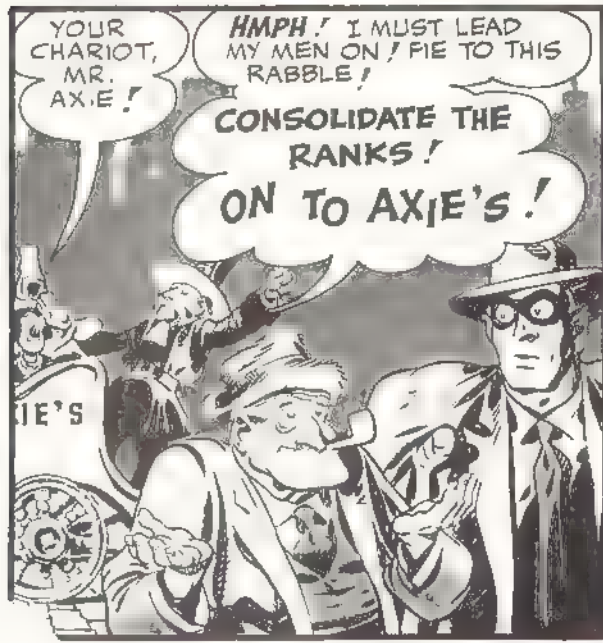
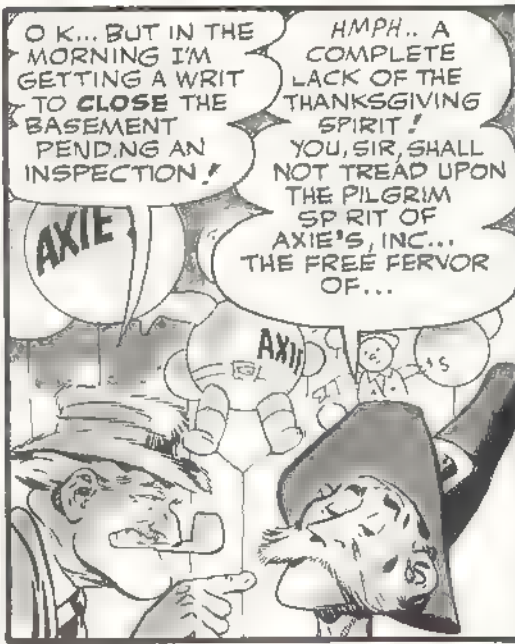
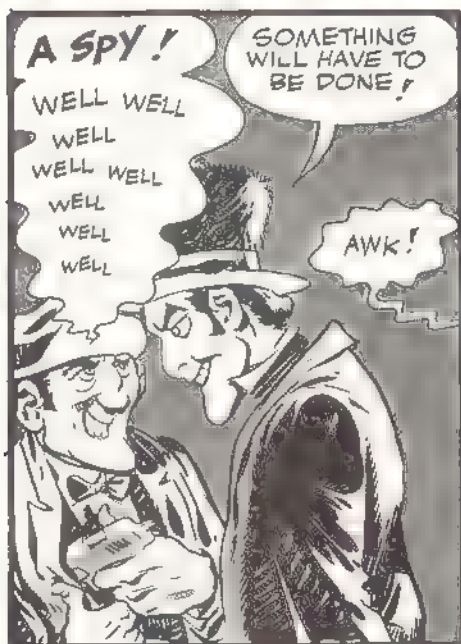

 e do not know how
 it be with other folk...
 but here y^e Thanksgiving be
 a pleasant tyme...
 filled with gratitude and steep'd
 in tradition...

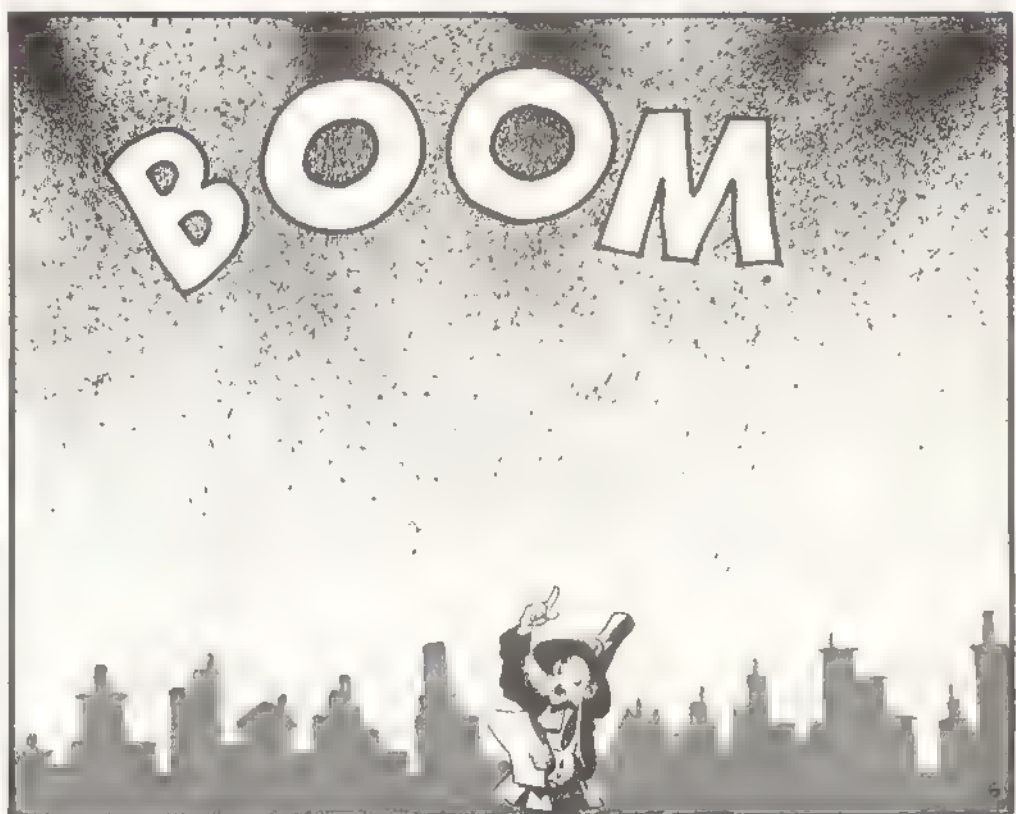
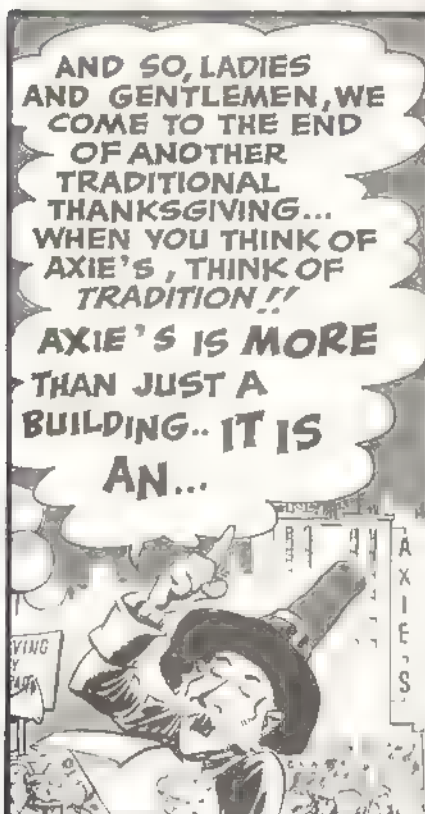


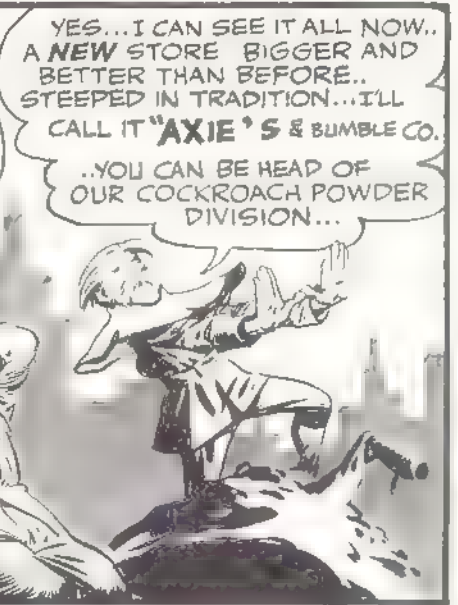
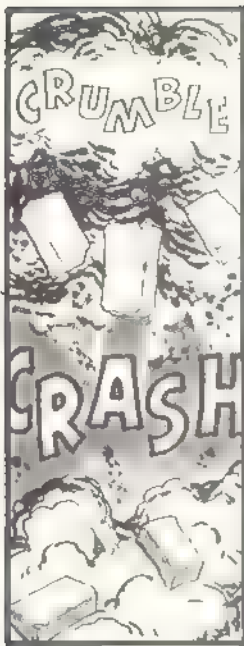




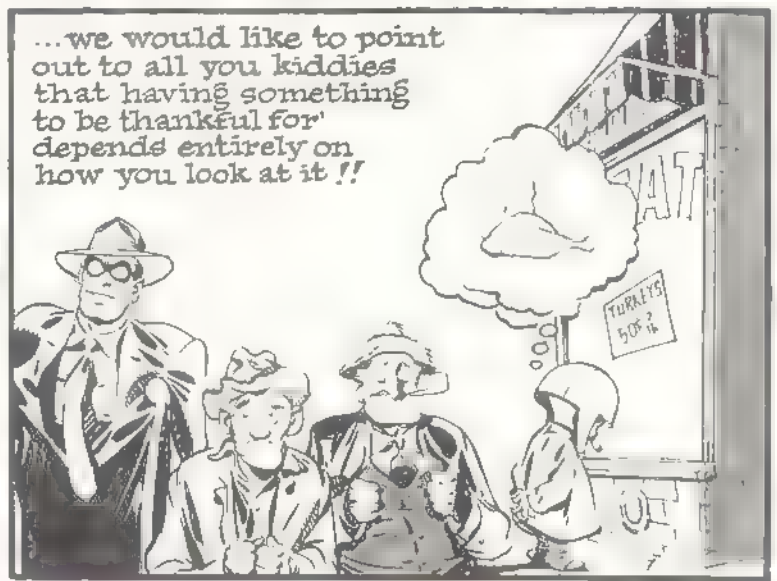






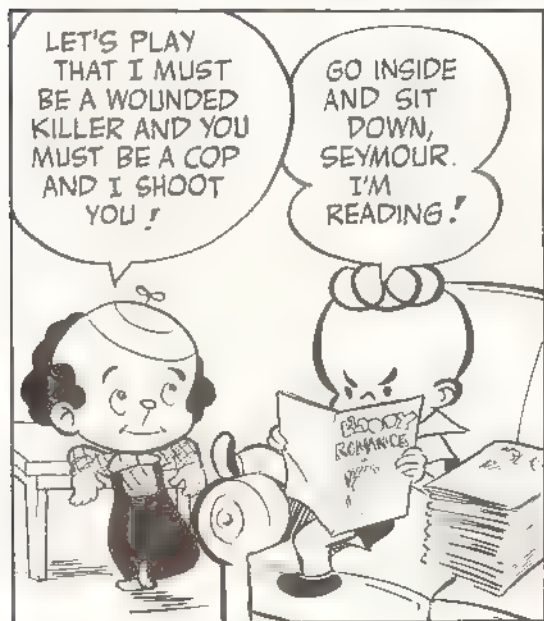


And so... as Thanksgiving sinks again into the sea of time.



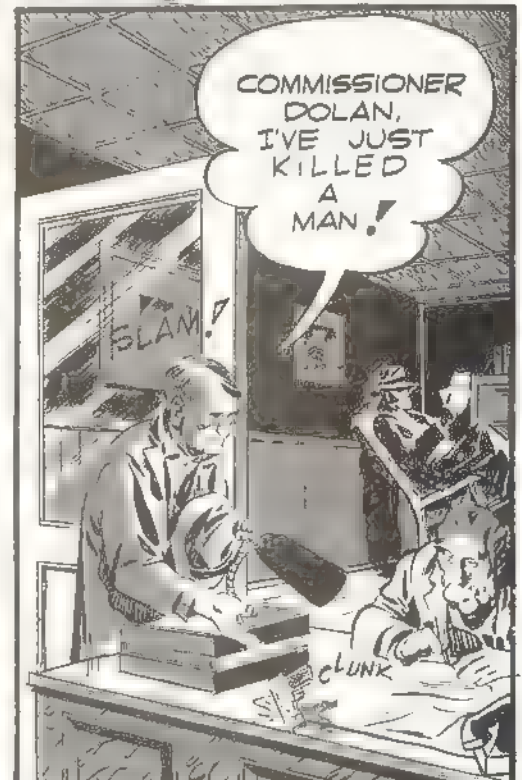
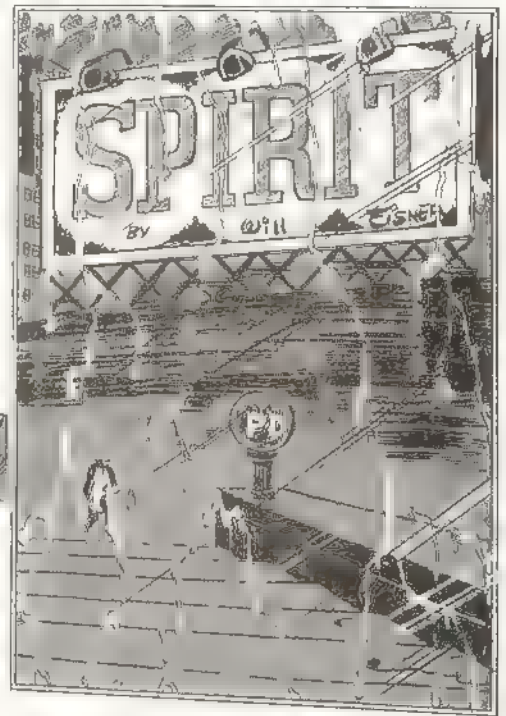
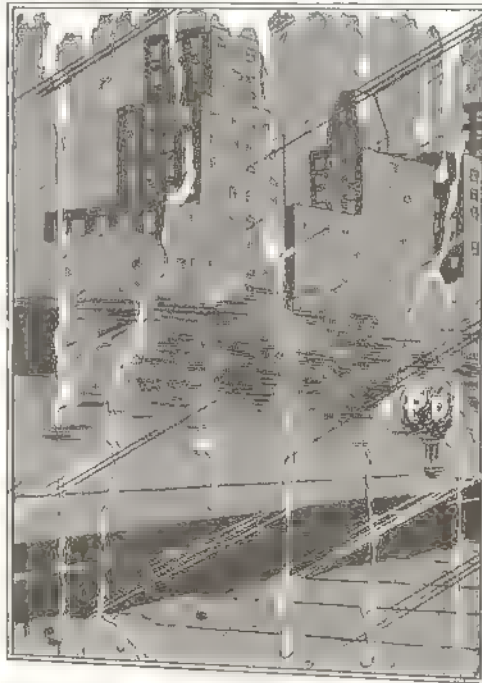
Clifford

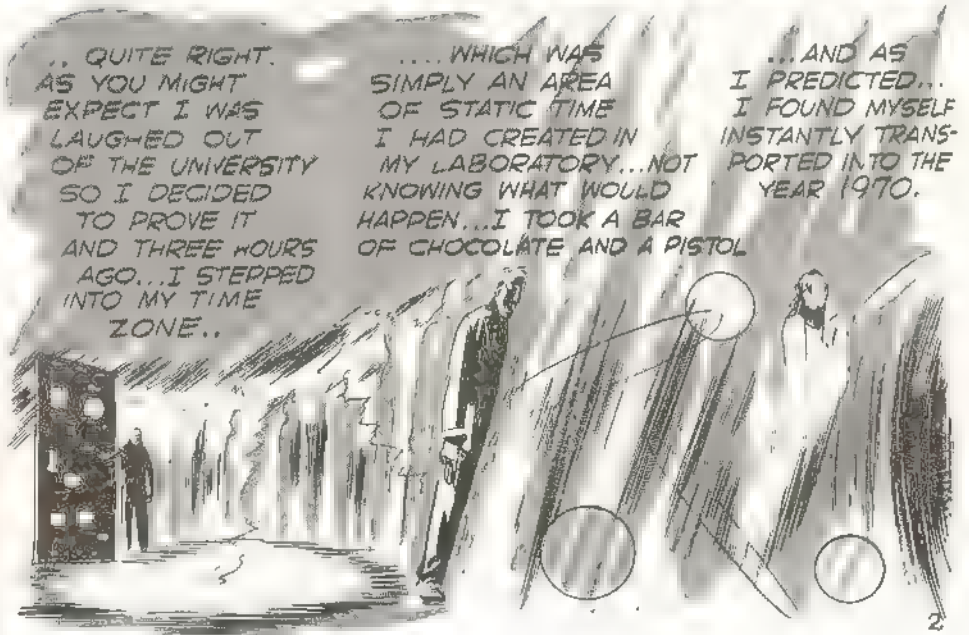
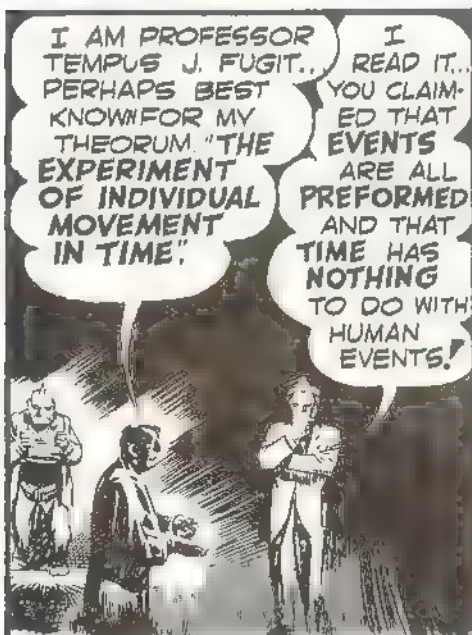
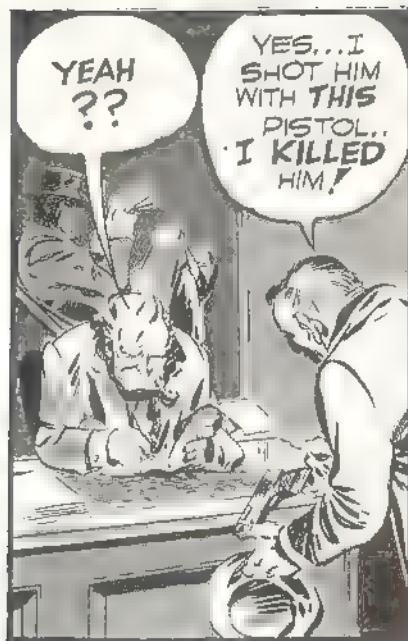
By JULES FEIFFER

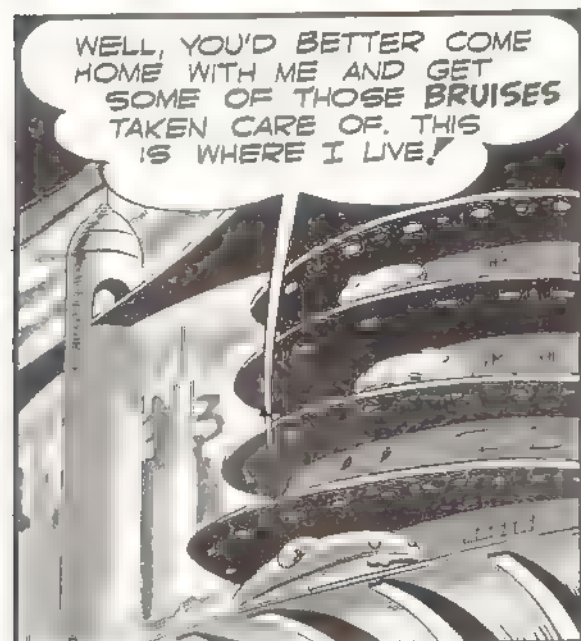
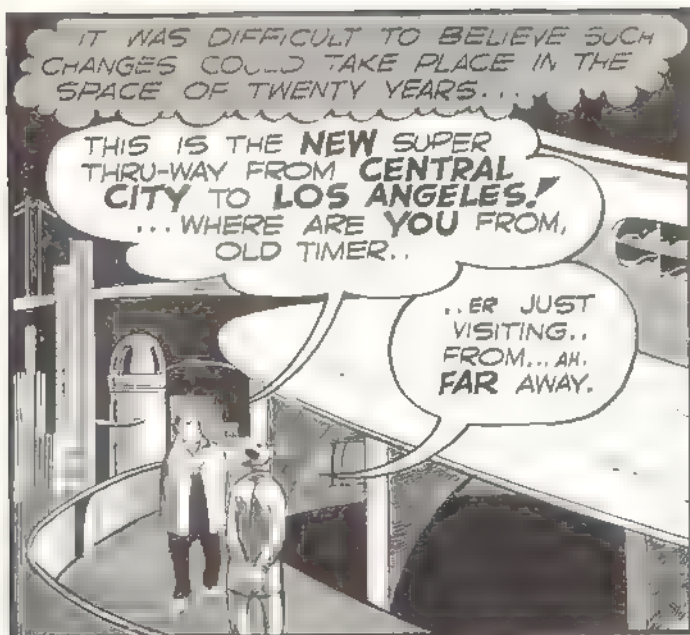


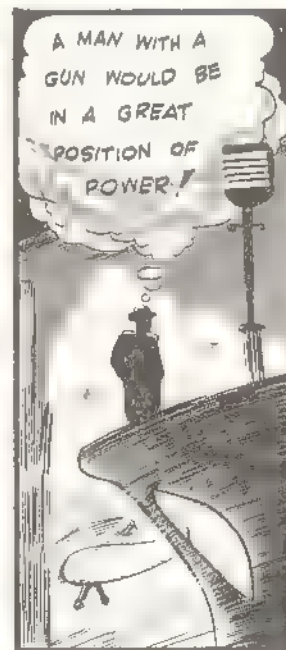
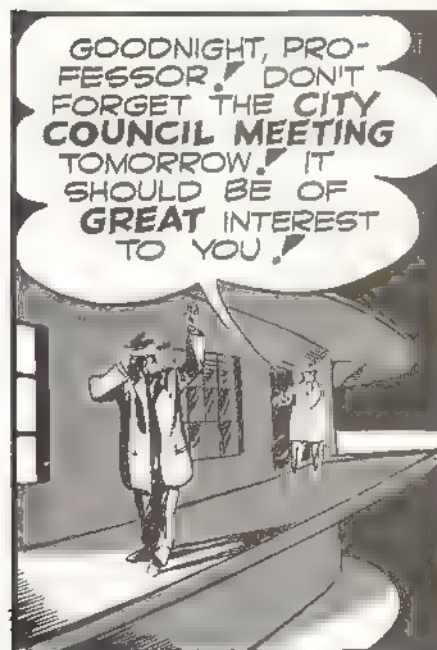
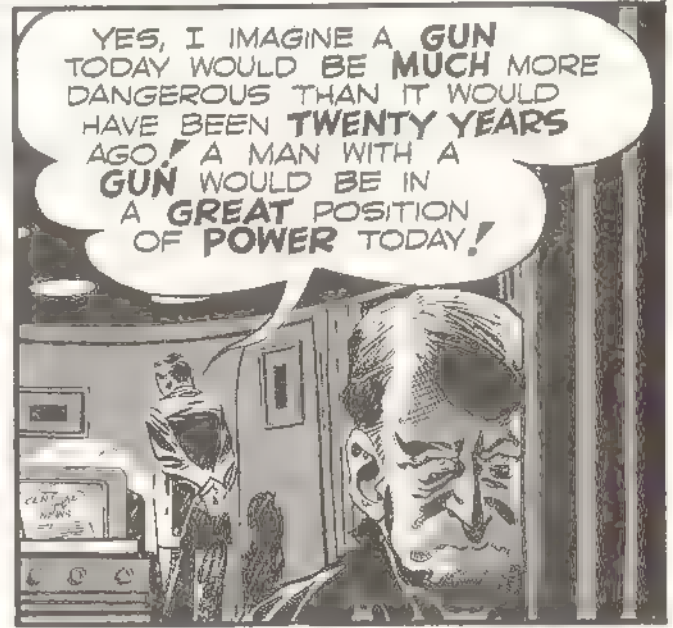
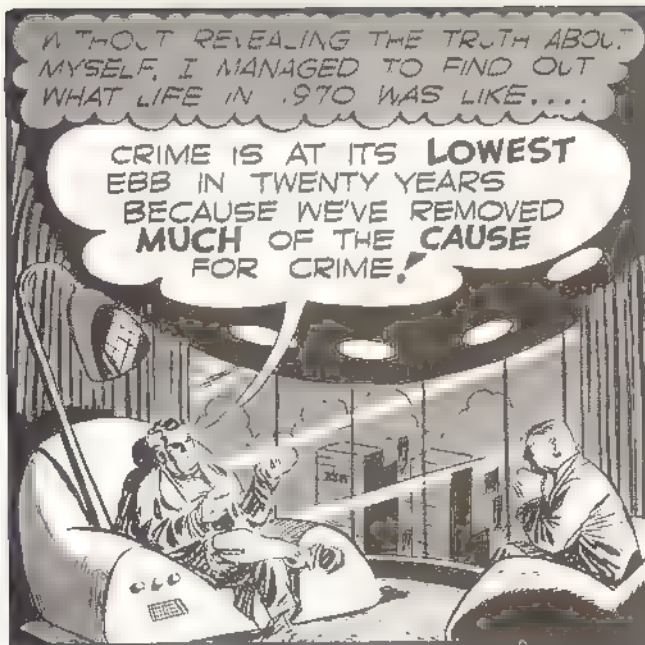
FUTURE DEATH

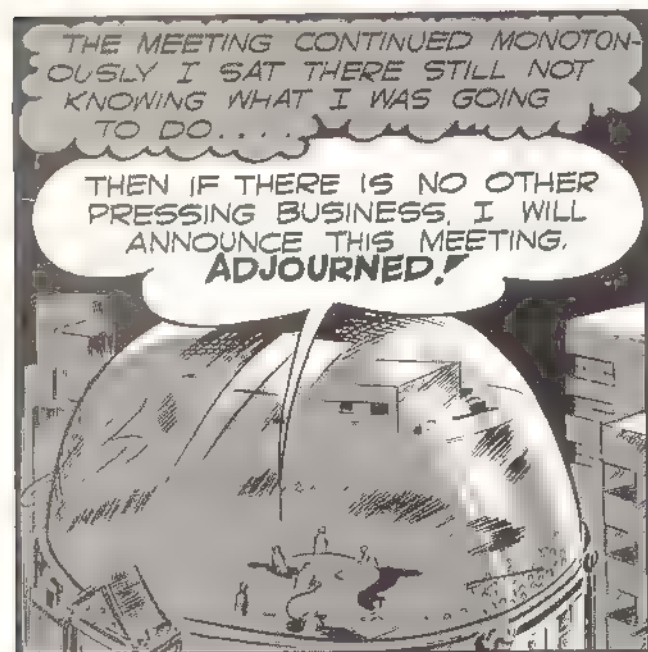
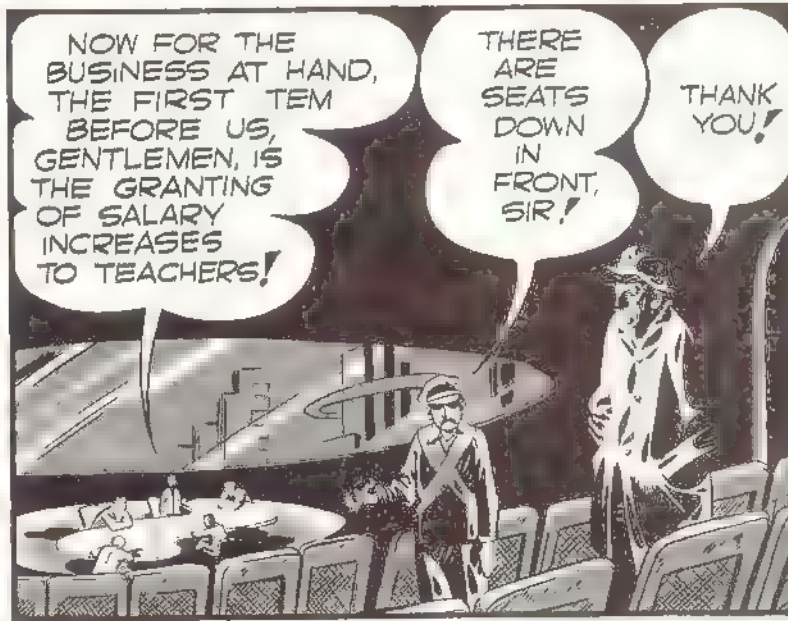
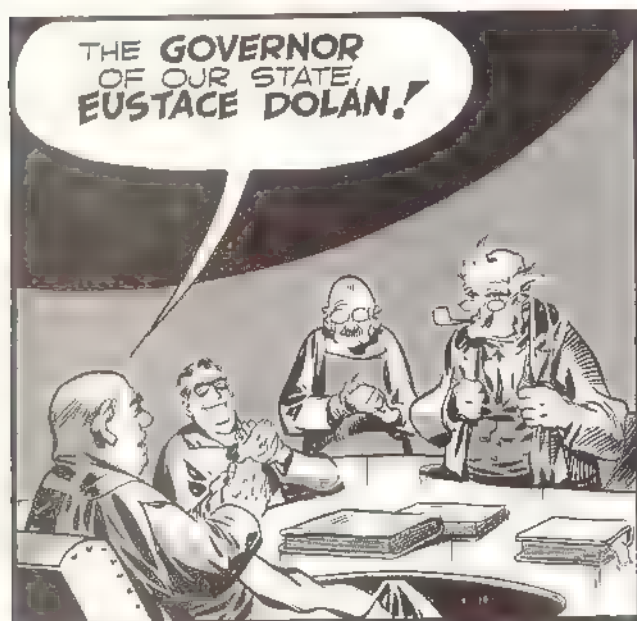
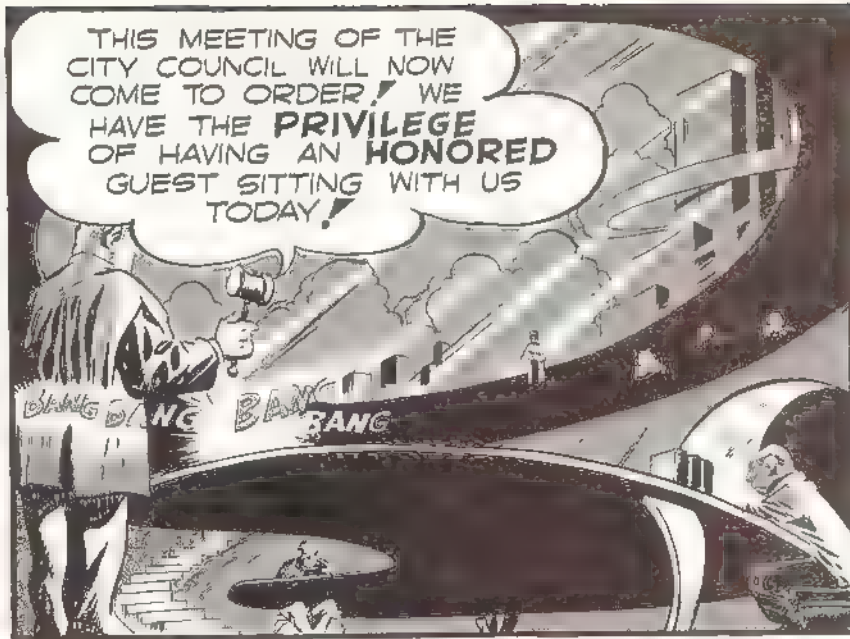
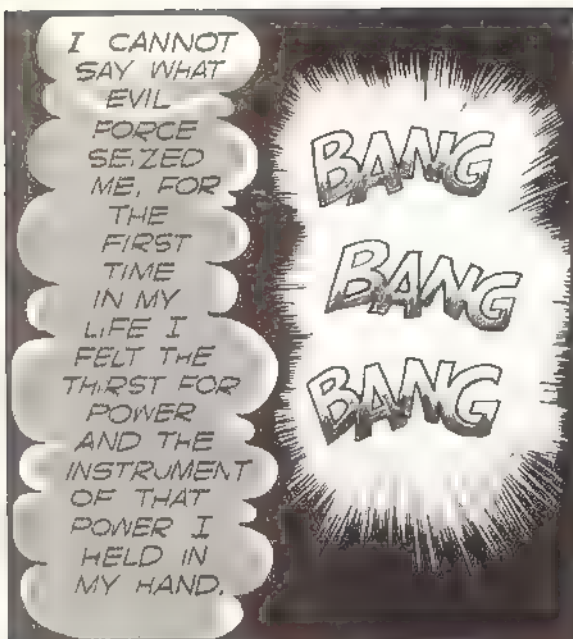
ON SOME DAYS POLICE HEADQUARTERS IS A VERY QUIET PLACE, AND T'WOULD SEEM ON THESE QUIET DAYS THAT THE POLICE, THOSE STALWARTS WHO PROTECT CENTRAL CITY, ARE MERELY WAITING FOR CRIME TO WALK IN ON THEM WHICH, INDEED SOMETIMES HAPPENS...

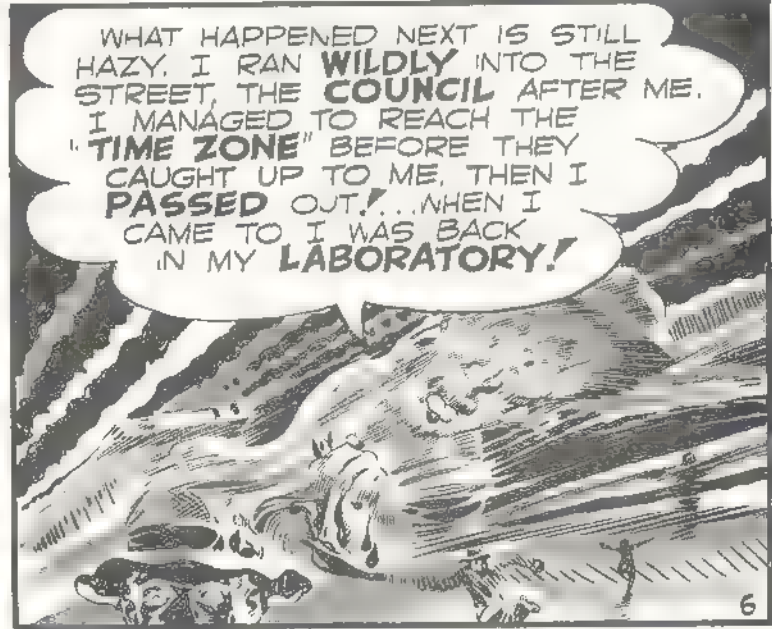
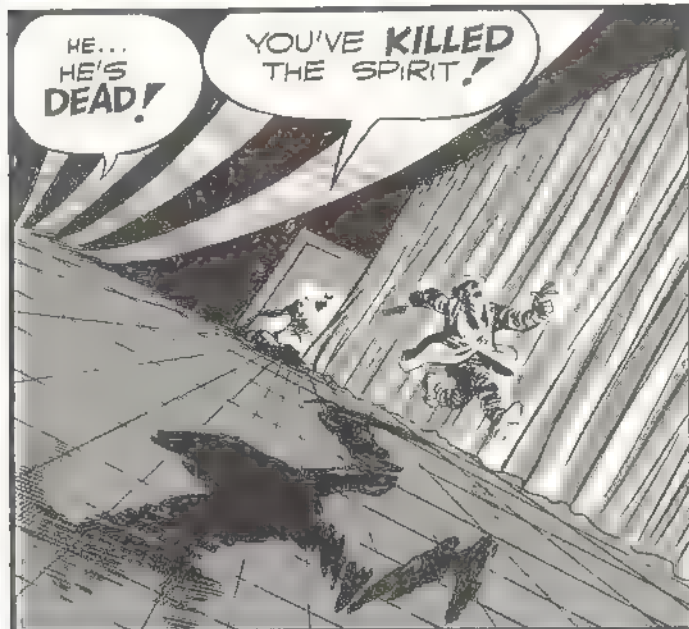


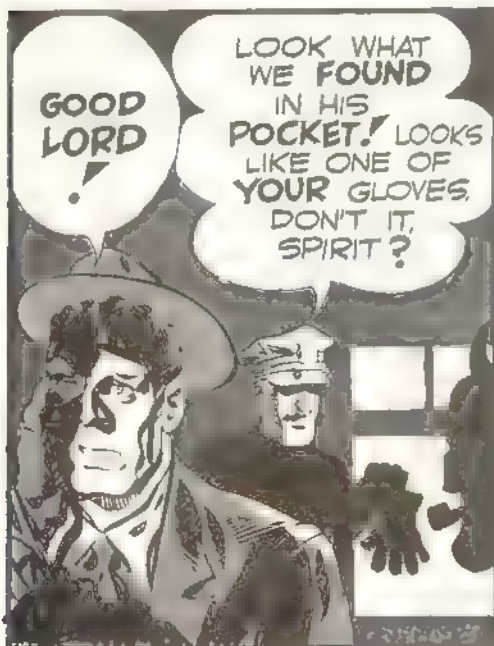
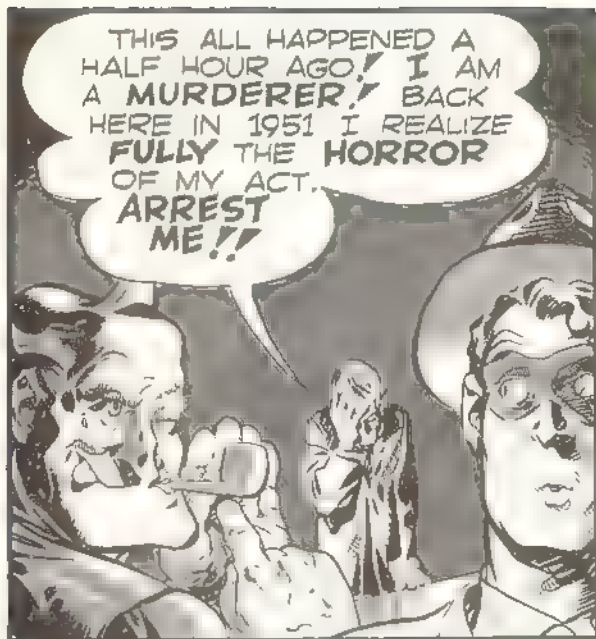












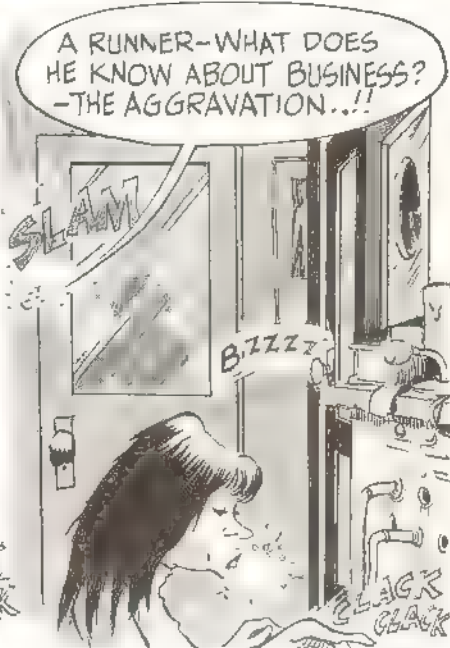
A SMALL BUSINESS

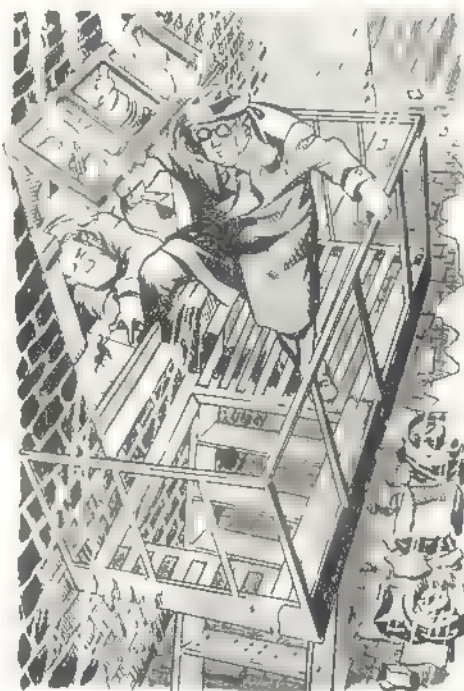
BY
Will Eisner

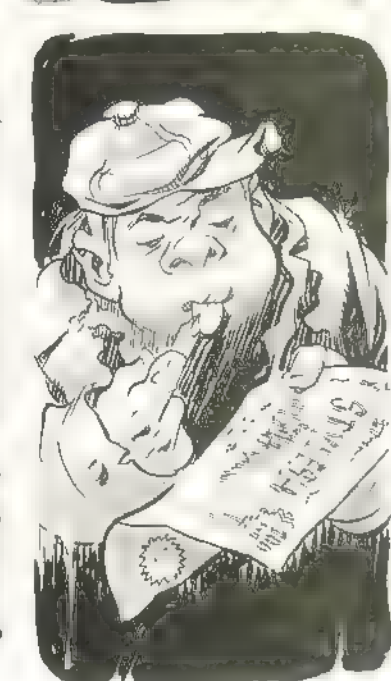
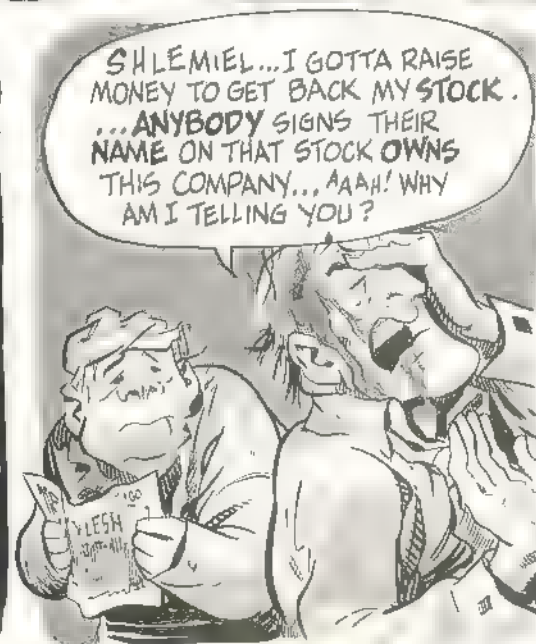
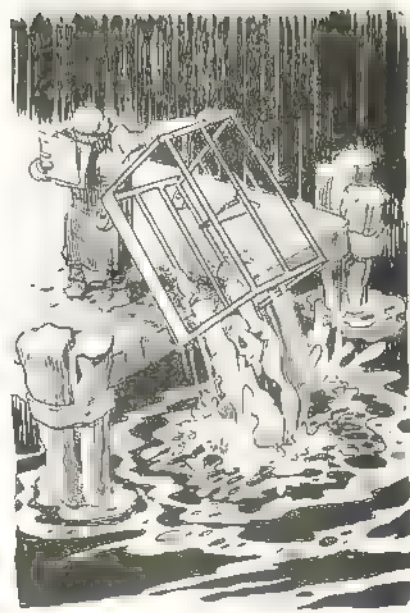
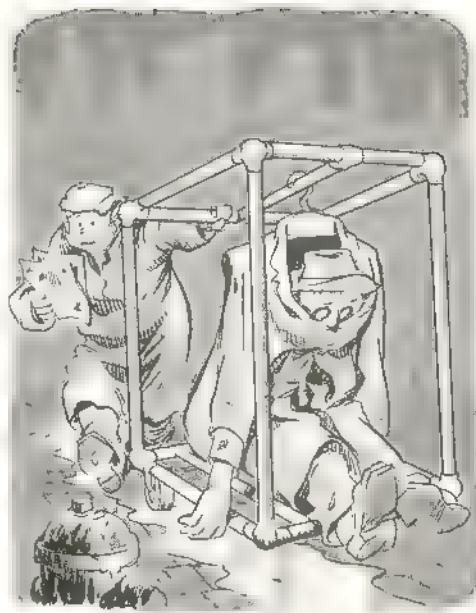
"A small business
is a big business
that aint yet big."
A. PITZIK



SINCE THE BEGINNING,
14 YEARS ALREADY,
GIMPIE THE GIMP
DELIVERED SAMPLES
FOR THE **STYLESH DRESS**
MFG. CO. (A. Pit zik, prop.)
THROUGH RAIN, HEAT
AND SNOW FAITHFULLY!
SO WHAT ELSE IS THERE
TO SAY-WHAT ELSE IS
AN UNSKILLED SHLEP
GOOD FOR... EH??







The SPIRIT

By WILL EISNER



IN

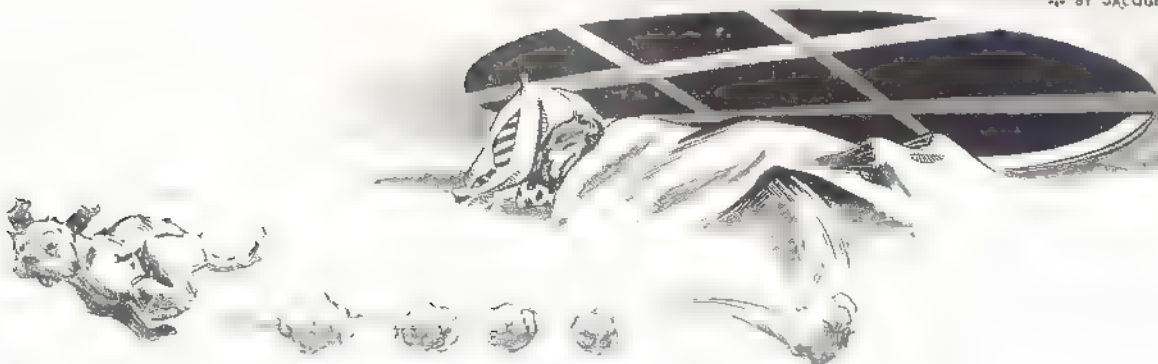
BARKAROLLE

FROM

*Tails of Arfmann**

The warm story of a valiant intermission in the symphony of a life...the turbulence, the surging passions of crime's maelstrom. The tender tale of those caught in its treacherous current, and of the stalwart who survive. Here we tell of Roger...young, impetuous Roger...one such dog...

BY JACQUES ARFENBARK



Young dog Roger had everything... security, position in the community, and the love of his master, Ebony...
...Yet there lay deep within him a seed of discontent which grew, vine-like, in the dark fed by secret springs... and one hot July night... it burst full blown upon the garden of his consciousness...

...and suddenly he knew!!
Yes..he knew he must go forth and live a dog's life!!



Downtown Central City was a hustling, bustling community when young dog Roger arrived...and though he did not know it at the time, old dog Growler had picked him out as a likely prospect.

All that day Growler followed him. By nightfall, young dog Roger lay tired and and unhappy in the gutter. Then old dog Growler approached.



"NEW IN THE CITY, EH?" said Growler.

"SIGH..." said Roger.

"AAH ER AHM A SMART GUY LIKE YOU DON'T NEED T'SCRABBLE FR SCRAP"

"NO?...Y' MEAN I GOT TALENT?...Y'CN GET ME A CHANCE IN THE MOVIES?"

"HAW...MORE GLAMOROUS THAN THAT / THRILLS.. EXCITEMENT.. EASY DOUGH!"

"GOSH..." said young dog Roger.

With old dog Growler leading the way they loped through alleys and byways until they came at last to a sleazy slum shack.

"Where are we?" asked young dog Roger. "We're at the hideout of the mob, kiddo," replied Growler.

"Come in..I want you to meet up with Sven Galli, our gang leader."

... and so it was that Roger young dog Roger.. waif of whim.. was caught in the maelstrom of crime...



WELL.. HEH HEH HEH.. A NEW MEMBER OF OUR LITTLE ENTERPRISE

YES Sven Galli was always glad to welcome a new dog to his net...



I HAD A WAY WITH DOGS THAT...HIC



Once he was a great man .



But vaudeville died, and no one wanted a man like Sven ... and so...

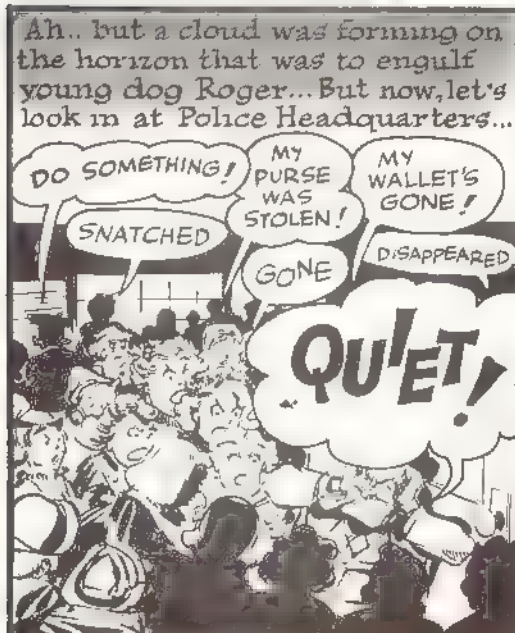
...AHEN... he went to the dogs...

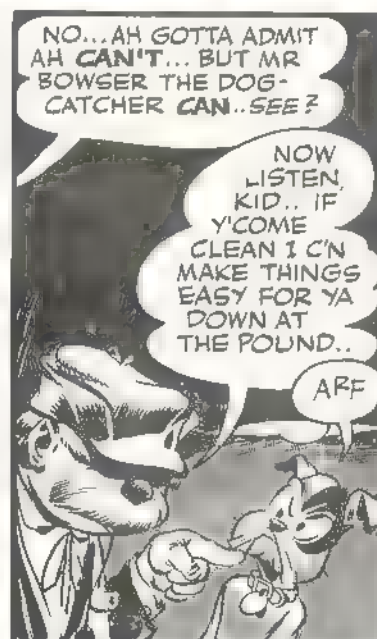


Well.. he would show them... ignore his dog power, eh...? Very well...it would be Sven Galli against the world from there on in .. people would know, would feel his presence ..

...A great talent may go ignored...
...A great artist may be humbled..

Bah! talent, denied one outlet...will find another..



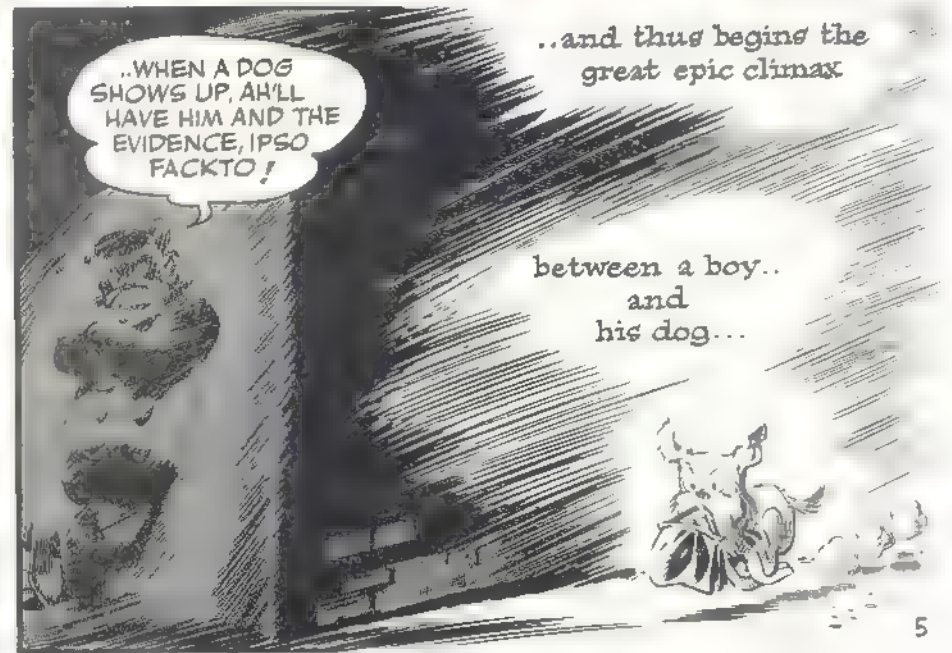
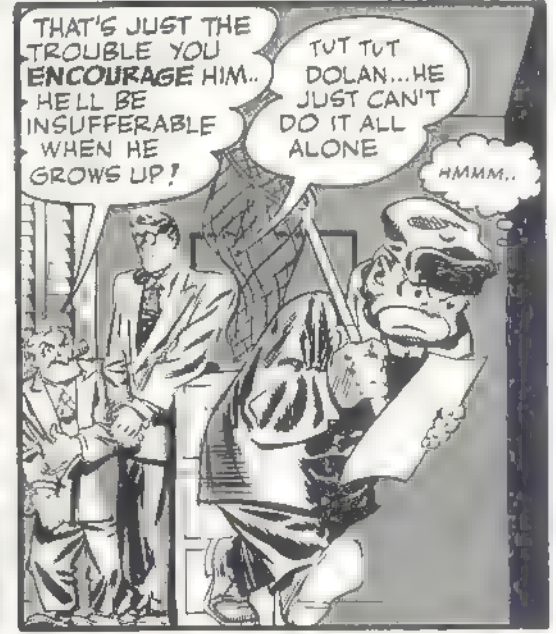


And now, whilst the forces that uphold civilization with the starch of discipline begin to congeal, let us return to young dog Roger... a hardened criminal by now...



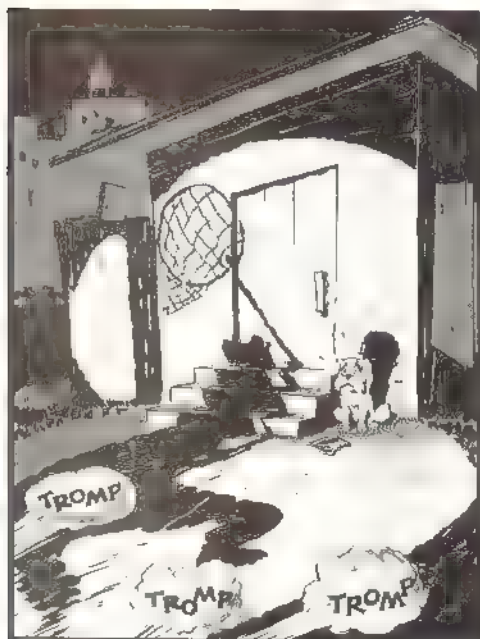
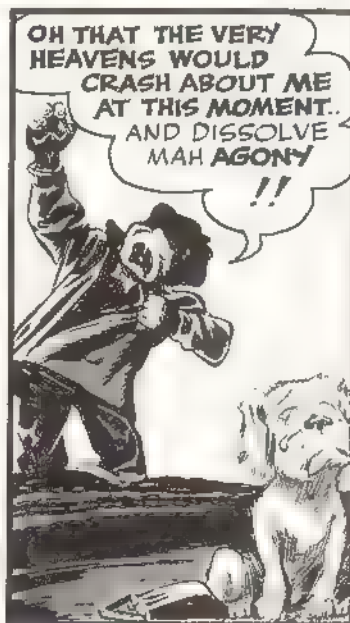
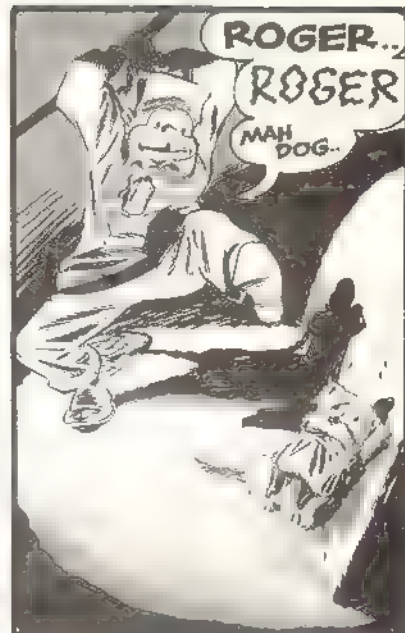
And so, young Dog Roger learns what every criminal discovers...there is no "easy" money.

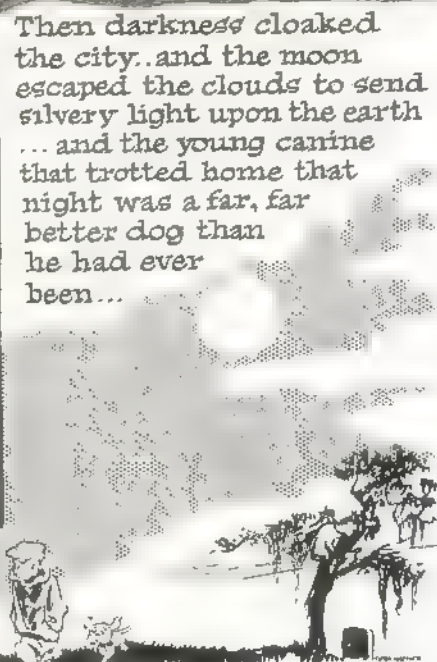
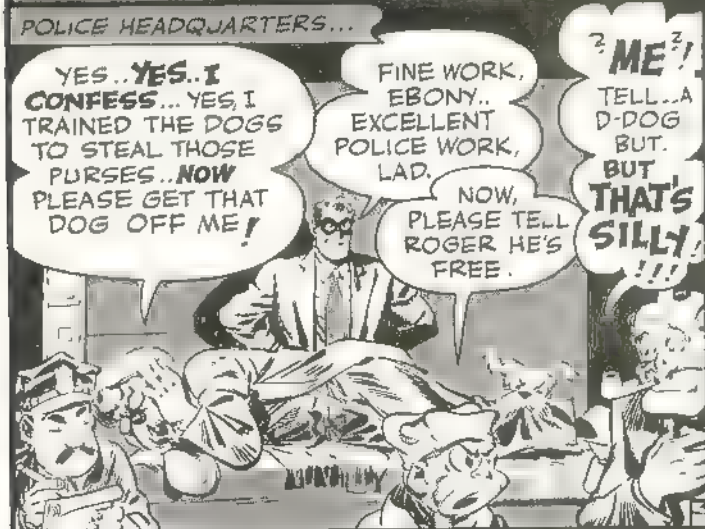
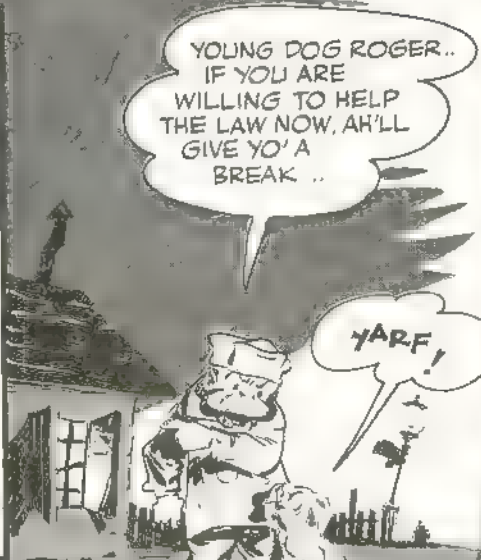
GET OUT AND SNATCH A PURSE EARN Y'R KEEP!



..and thus begins the great epic climax

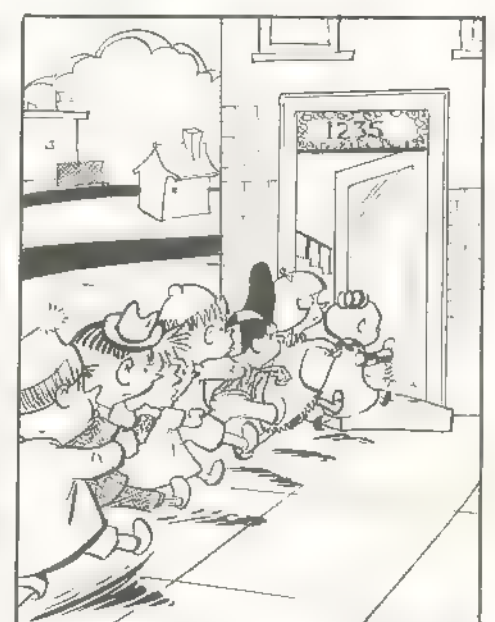
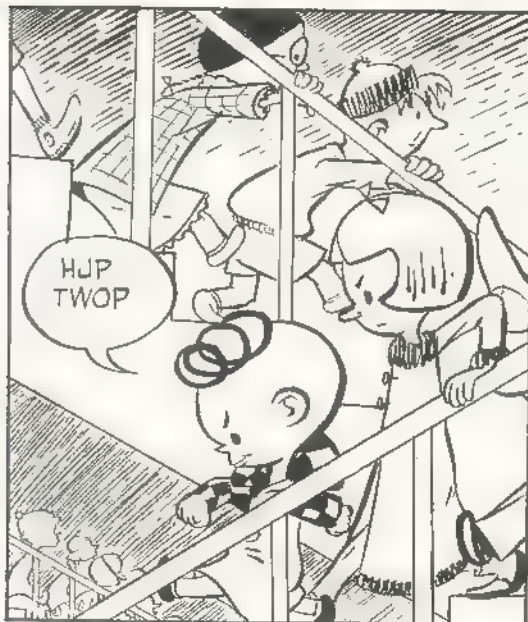
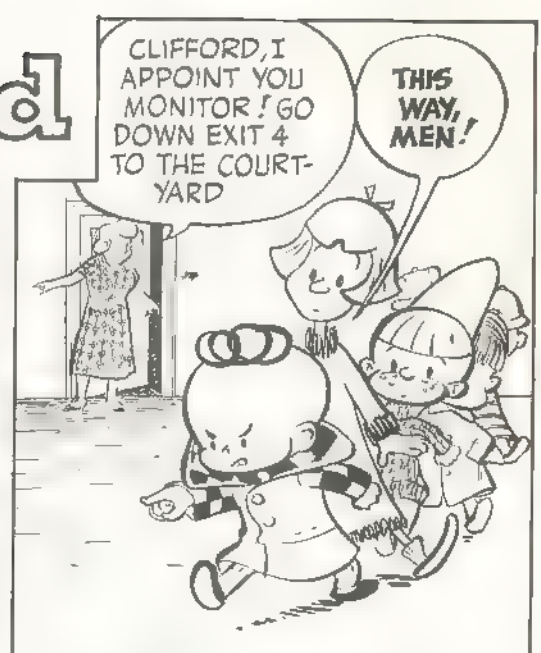
between a boy.. and his dog...





Clifford

BY JULES FEIFFER



MAD MOES

In the beginning there was the desert, the dust, Mad Moes, the river and Lizard... The Lizard was just a lazy desert character who sat oozing in the hot sun... but **mad moes**, the river? Oho!! Now there was something!!

NOW MAD MOES WAS NOT AN ORDINARY RIVER... BY THAT WE MEAN HE COULDN'T BE USED FOR TRADE... AND FOR SOME REASON, FISH NEVER COULD LIVE IN HIM!! HE WAS JUST A NO GOOD, SHIFTLESS, ORNERY RIVER THAT STARTED SOMEWHERE IN THE MOUNTAINS AND ROARED DOWN THROUGH NERONOTCH, ACROSS THE DESERT AND INTO THE BIG RIVER THAT WENT TO THE SEA!

MAD MOES ON RAMPAGE
RIVER FLOODS
VALLEY KILLING
ORE'S \$100,000
DAMAGE

WELL, SIR, ONCE A YEAR..

'BOUT SPRING MAD MOES WOULD SWELL UP, TURN PURPLE LIKE GRANPAW TALKIN' POLITICS AND DESTROY THE WHOLE DANG VALLEY!! ONLY THING STANDING WHEN IT WAS OVER WAS LIZARD'S SHACK! IT HAPPENED LIKE THAT EVERY YEAR.. SORTA MIRACLE!

Y'SEE, SIR.. ME AND OL' MAD MOES, IS FRIENDS! WE UNNERSTAN' EACH OTHER! ME AND HIM IS BOSS IN THIS TERRITORY!!

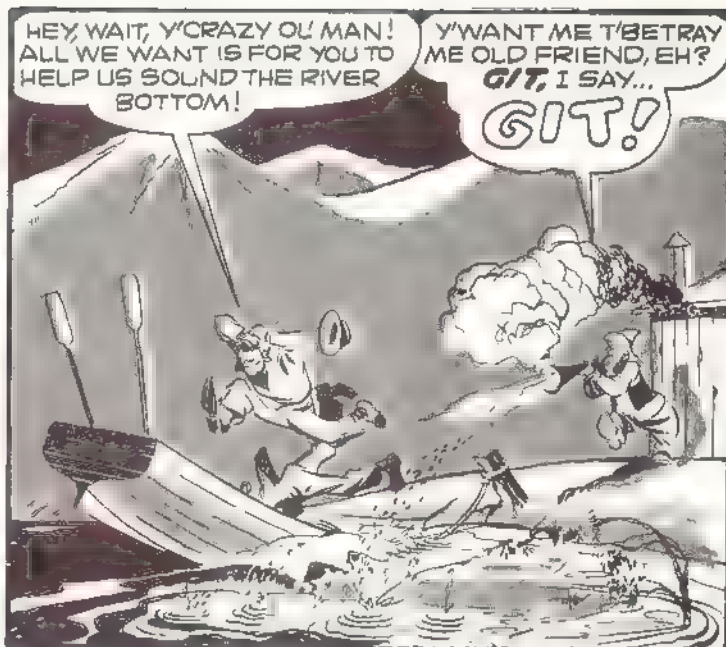
Y'DON'T SAY?? WELL YOU'RE JUST THE MAN WE NEED, MR. LIZARD!



WE'RE GOVERNMENT SURVEYORS, POP! FOLKS ARE TIRED OF MAD MOES ACTING UP AND WASHINGTON'S GONNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

YEP.. WE'RE GONNA **DAM** UP OL' MAN MOES! YA MIGHT SAY LAW AN' ORDER IS MOVIN' IN, MR. LIZARD!

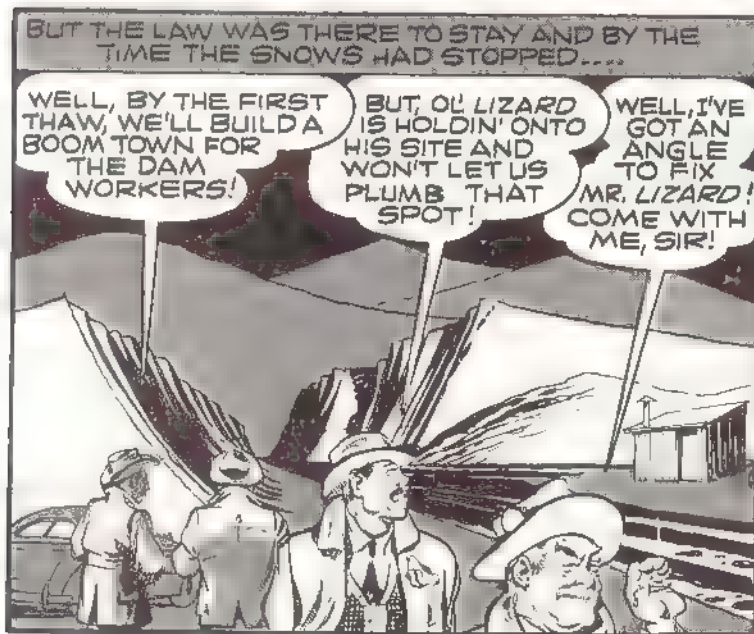
WHAT?!! DAM UP MAD MOES? NO--- NEVER! I'LL NEVER LET YA!



HEY, WAIT, Y'CRAZY OL' MAN! ALL WE WANT IS FOR YOU TO HELP US SOUND THE RIVER BOTTOM!

Y'WANT ME T'BETRAY ME OLD FRIEND, EH?

GIT, I SAY... GIT!



BUT THE LAW WAS THERE TO STAY AND BY THE TIME THE SNOWS HAD STOPPED....

WELL, BY THE FIRST THAW, WE'LL BUILD A BOOM TOWN FOR THE DAM WORKERS!

BUT, OL' LIZARD IS HOLDIN' ONTO HIS SITE AND WON'T LET US PLUMB THAT SPOT!

WELL, I'VE GOT AN ANGLE TO FIX MR. LIZARD! COME WITH ME, SIR!



WE'VE OFFERED TO PAY YOU A FAIR PRICE AND YOU'VE REFUSED... NOW, MR. LIZARD, THIS IS OUR LAST OFFER!

GIT!

I AIN'T ACCEPTIN' NO BRIBE--I AIN'T BETRAYIN' MAD MOES... **GIT!** I GOT SQUATTERS RIGHTS!



OKAY, LIZARD, NOW HEAR THIS... THE LAW IN THIS STATE STILL PROTECTS SQUATTERS, BUT THE LEGISLATURE HAS PASSED AN AMENDMENT MAKING THE WHOLE AREA A PARK... YOUR LITTLE SPOT IS NOW AN ISLAND WITHOUT LAW OR COUNTRY... IF YOU SET FOOT ON OUR PARK LAND, WE'LL JAIL YOU FOR TRESPASSING! GOOD BYE!

SPAT!

SPLAT

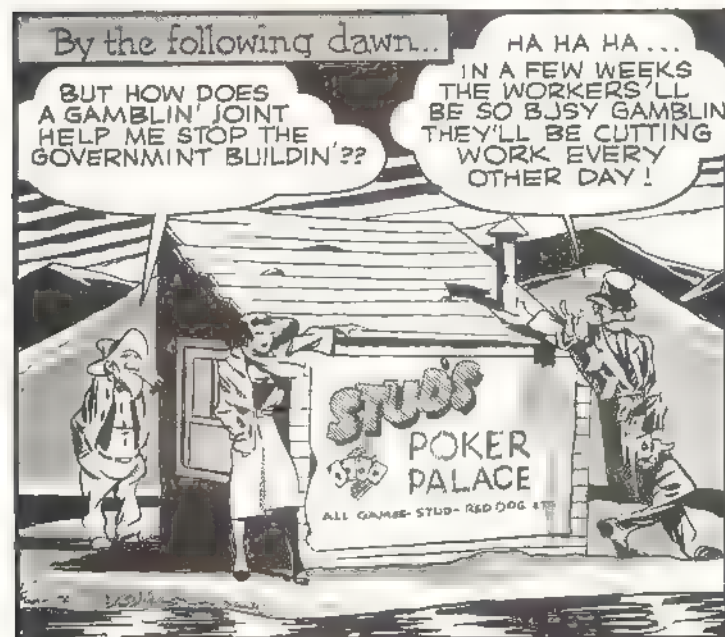
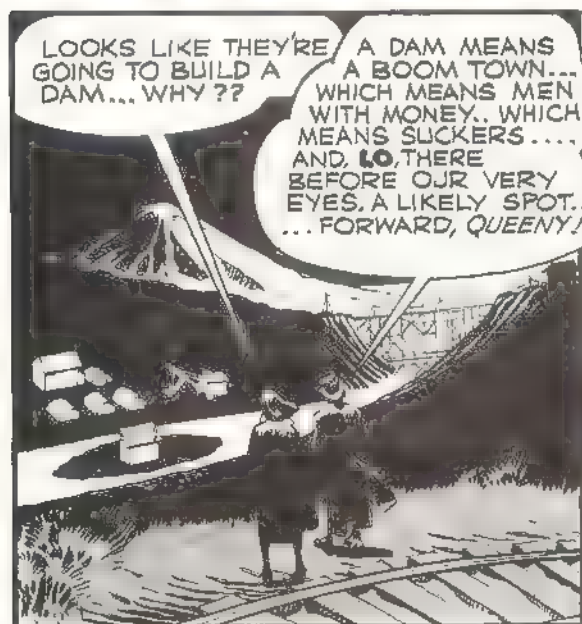


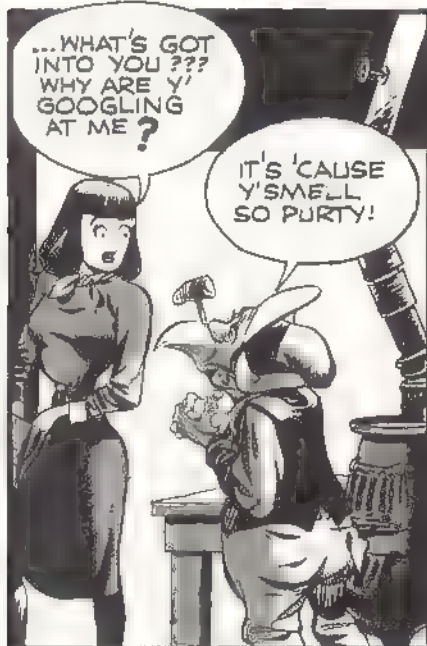
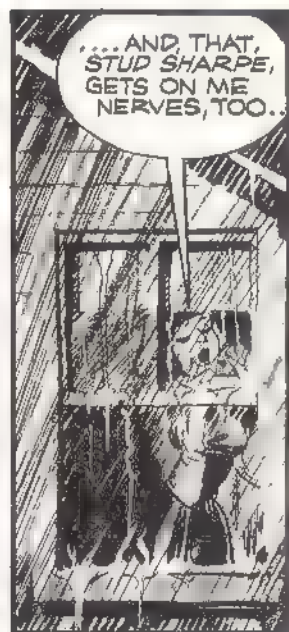
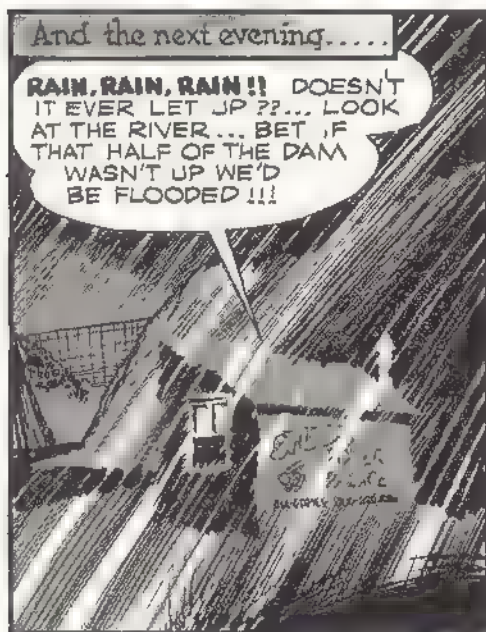
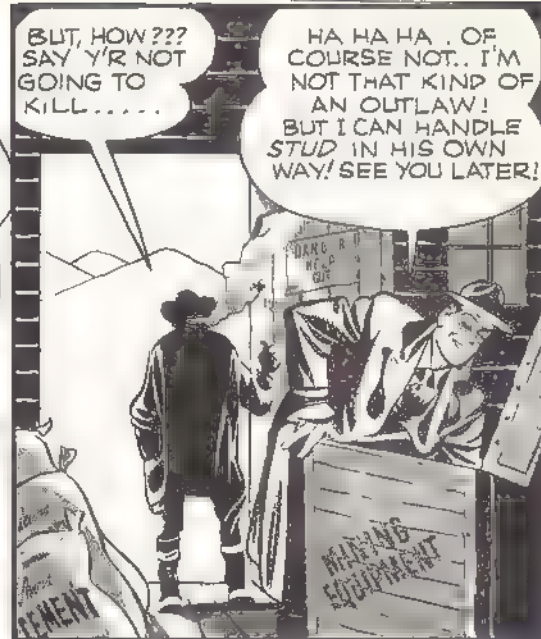
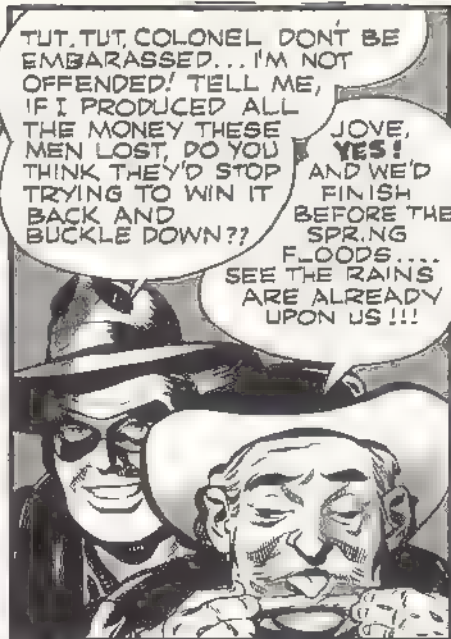
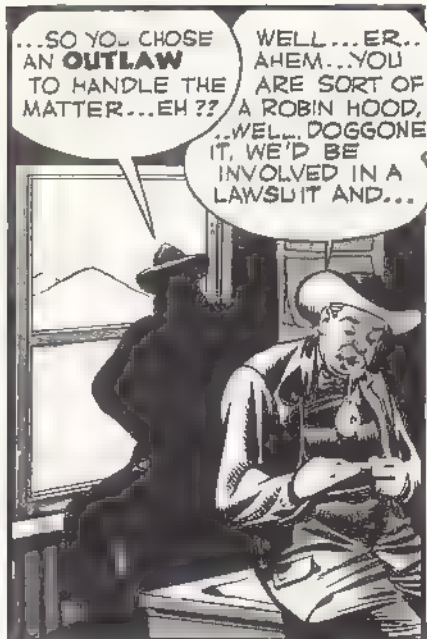
MEANWHILE...

WHY DON'T YOU MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, **SPIRIT!**

CRIMEBUSTING IS MY BUSINESS AND RUNNING A GAMBLING JOINT FOR MINORS IS A LOW CRIME... NOW, GET OUT OF TOWN, **STUD!**

AW, **STUD**, C'MON! WE'RE LUCKY HE AIN'T SQUEALIN' TO THE COPS! THANKS FOR TH' BREAK, **SPIRIT**, I APPRECIATE IT!







NOW DON'T GET SORE, STUD!... YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T CROSS YOU...

..HMM, I DOUBT IF I COULD GET ODDS ON THAT!... **GOLD**, EH, POP?? THAT'S WHY YOU WANNA KEEP THEM FROM DAMMING THE RIVER...



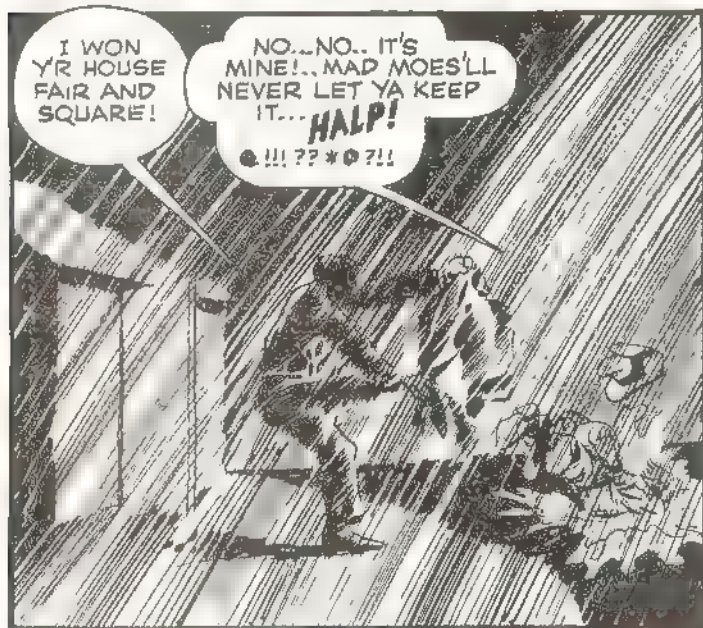
IF YOU AIM TO STEAL THIS ISLAND FUM ME, 'LL...

STEAL?? WHY POP HOW COULD YOU! I'LL GIVE YOU A FAIR CHANCE- PICK A CARD:



BUT I DON'T WANTA... OH WELL... TWO O' CLUBS!

TSK, TOO BAD. I'VE THE ACE OF SPADES... NOW BEAT IT... .. IT'S ALL MINE...



I WON Y'R HOUSE FAIR AND SQUARE!

NO... NO.. IT'S MINE!.. MAD MOES'LL NEVER LET YA KEEP IT... **HALP!**
Q!!! ?? *0?!!



THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO SEE... A CLEAN-CUT GAMBLING MAN WHO LIVES UP TO HIS BETS!

THE **SPIRIT!**

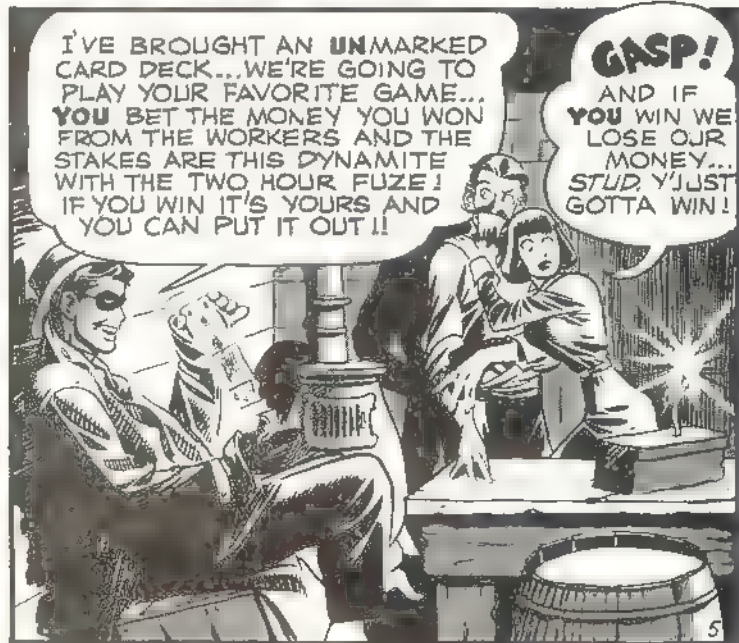


GOT A LIGHT, QUEENY?

Y..YEAH.... WHAT D'YOU WANT? THIS ISLAND'S OUTTA STATE JURISDICTION!



I KNOW.. JUST CAME TO DO A LITTLE **GAMBLING!** THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS, ISN'T IT, STUD!?



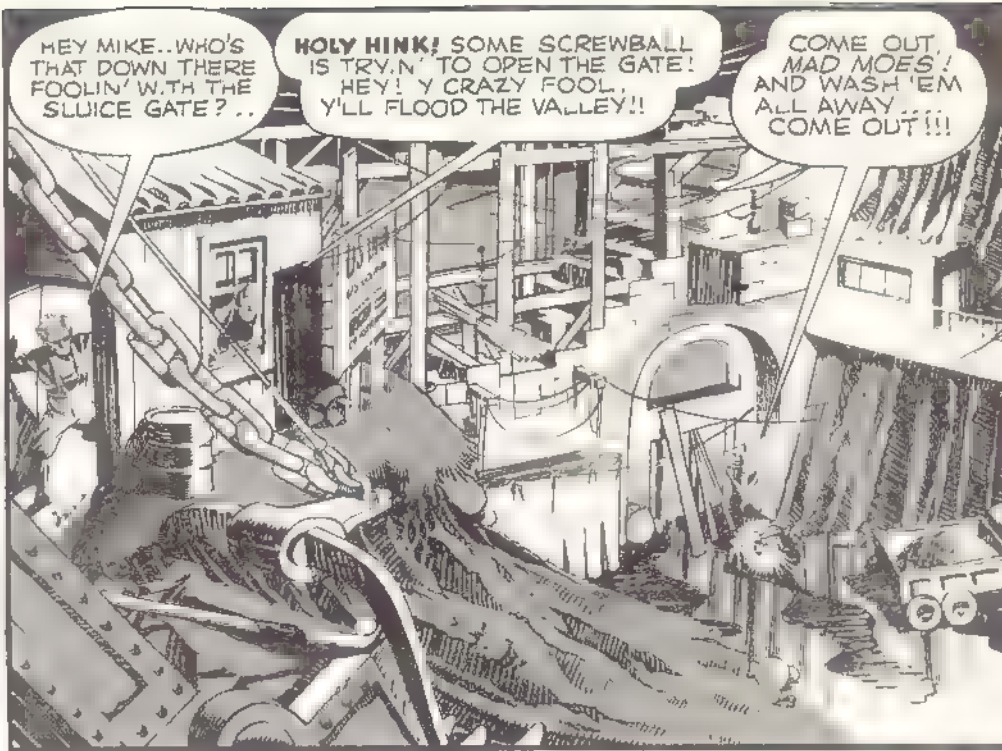
I'VE BROUGHT AN UNMARKED CARD DECK... WE'RE GOING TO PLAY YOUR FAVORITE GAME... YOU BET THE MONEY YOU WON FROM THE WORKERS AND THE STAKES ARE THIS DYNAMITE WITH THE TWO HOUR FUZE! IF YOU WIN IT'S YOURS AND YOU CAN PUT IT OUT!!

GASP!

AND IF YOU WIN WE LOSE OUR MONEY... STUD, Y'JUST GOTTA WIN!



MAD MOES'LL
HELP ME! HE'S
MY FRIEND!



HEY MIKE...WHO'S
THAT DOWN THERE
FOOLIN' WITH THE
SLUICE GATE? ..

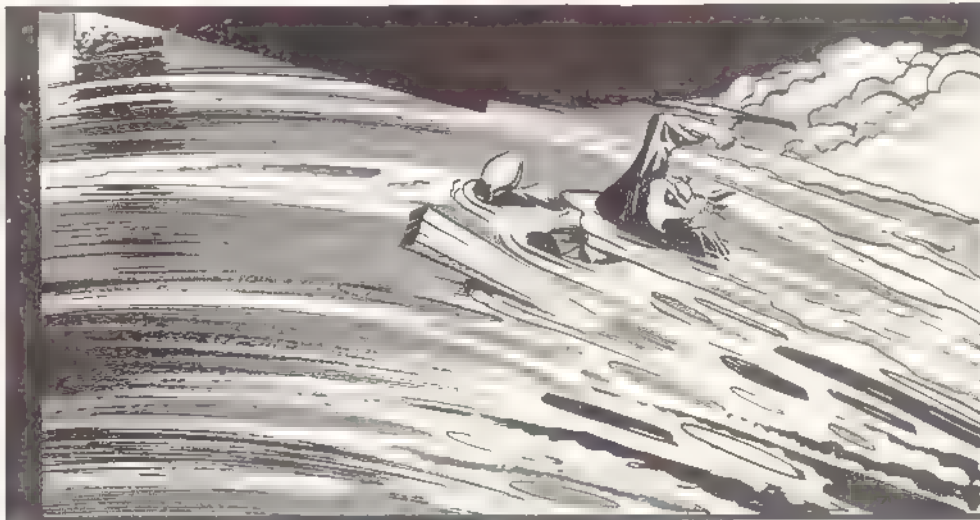
HOLY HINK! SOME SCREWBALL
IS TRYIN' TO OPEN THE GATE!
HEY! Y CRAZY FOOL,
Y'LL FLOOD THE VALLEY!!

COME OUT,
MAD MOES!
AND WASH 'EM
ALL AWAY...
COME OUT!!!



LEGGO
Y'CRAZY..

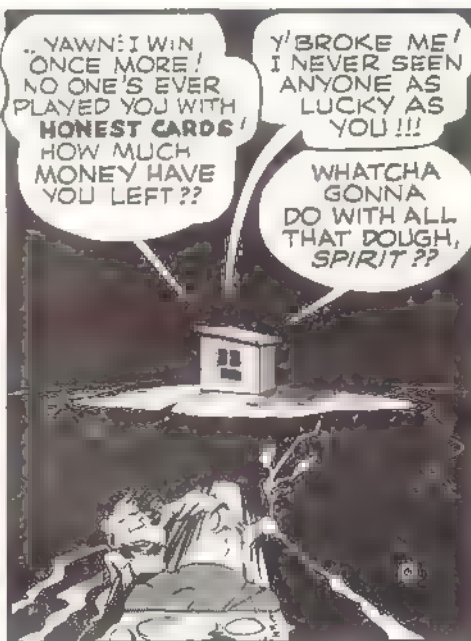
TOO LATE!



A FULL HOUSE.
HO HUM...
I'VE WON
AGAIN!

LET HIM HAVE
THE DOUGH,
STUD! LET'S GO..
THE RIVER'S
RISING!

SHADDAP!!
NO ONE EVER
BEAT ME AT
POKER!!



..YAWN:I WIN
ONCE MORE!
NO ONE'S EVER
PLAYED YOU WITH
HONEST CARDS!
HOW MUCH
MONEY HAVE
YOU LEFT??

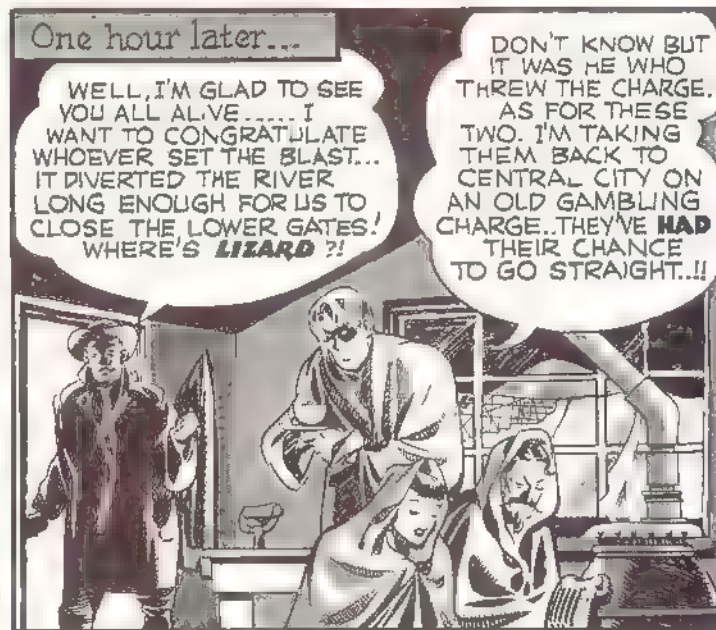
Y'BROKE ME!
I NEVER SEEN
ANYONE AS
LUCKY AS
YOU!!!

WHATCHA
GONNA
DO WITH ALL
THAT DOUGH,
SPIRIT??



..GIVE IT BACK TO
THE WORKERS..
GOT TO BE GOING
NOW....YOU
TWO HAD
BETTER LEAVE..
THE
RIVER'S RISING!

WE'LL CARE
FOR
OURSELVES!
NOW F'HEAVEN'S
SAKE, TAKE THAT
DYNAMITE
WITH YOU!!!



....And so...as you can plainly see....the absenteeism stopped. The dam was built jailing **Mad Moes** behind a stout wall of concrete..and so the law conquered the great renegade river, **Mad Moes**.

...And what about Lizard..well when the river dried up the isle became part of the state once more and the river bed is now U.S. highway 103... Stop in at Lizard's gas station and ask him about it, if you don't believe us!



I'M A FOOTBALL
PLAYER !



Clifford

BY JULES FEIFFER

SURE I'M BIG ENOUGH...
WATCH !



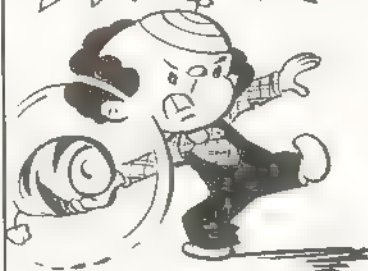
THERE'S A CROWD OF
70 TRILLION OUT AT
THE STADIUM HERE TODAY,
TO WATCH SEYMOUR
IN ACTION... THE
BALL IS SNAPPED...



SEYMOUR HAS IT !
LOOK AT HIM GO !



HE'S UP TO THE TEN,
THE TWENTY, THE
THIRTY ! HE'S TRAPPED !
HE'S GOING TO PASS....



THERE'S A TREMENDOUS
LATERAL PASS GOING A
ZILLION FEET... AND
SEYMOUR INTERCEPTS IT !



HE'S UP TO THE NINETY,
THE HUNDRED, THE
HUNDRED TEN ! LOOK
AT HIM SMASH THROUGH
THAT LINE !



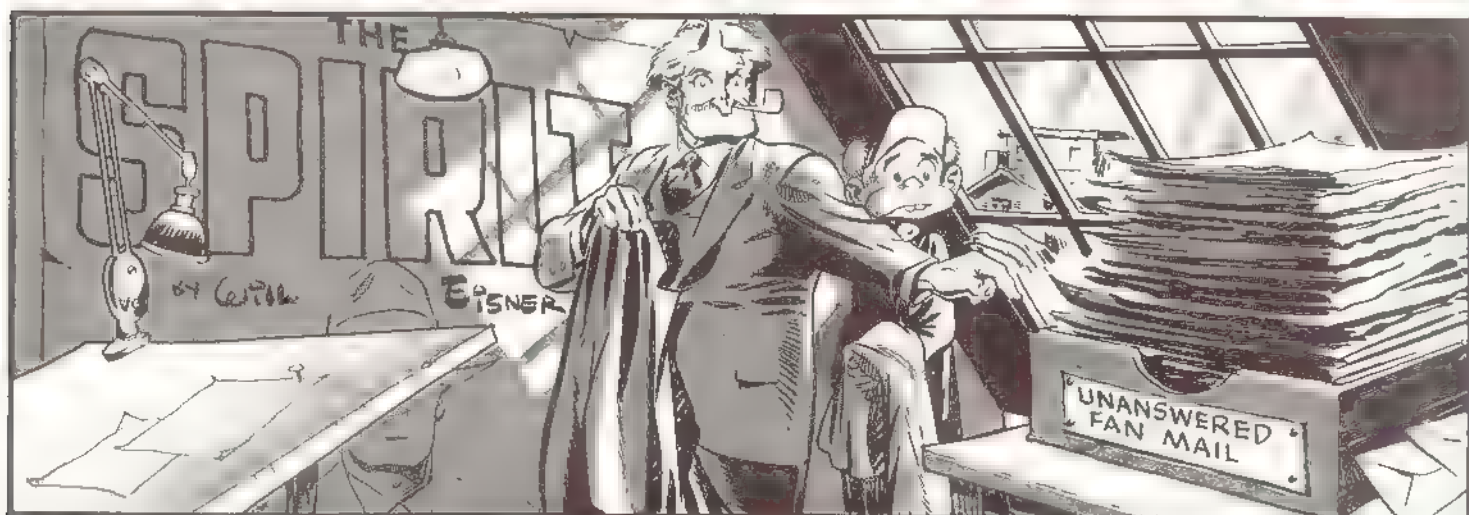
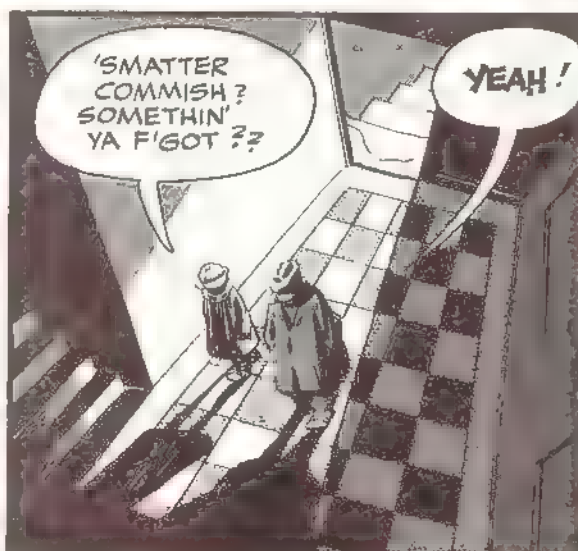
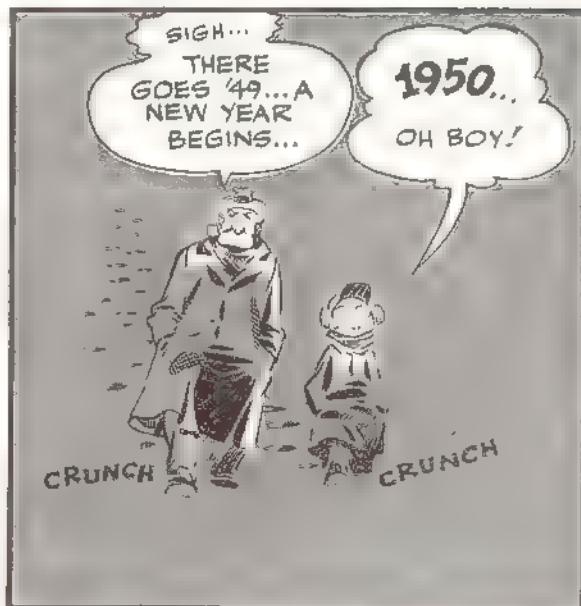
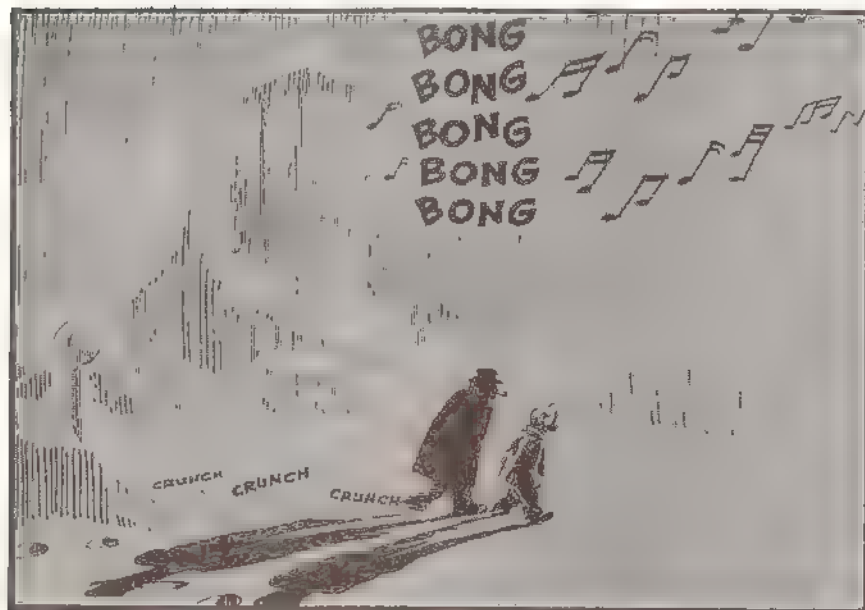
TOUCHDOWN..
.. AND THIS
CROWD OF EIGHTY
SKILLION GOES WILD !

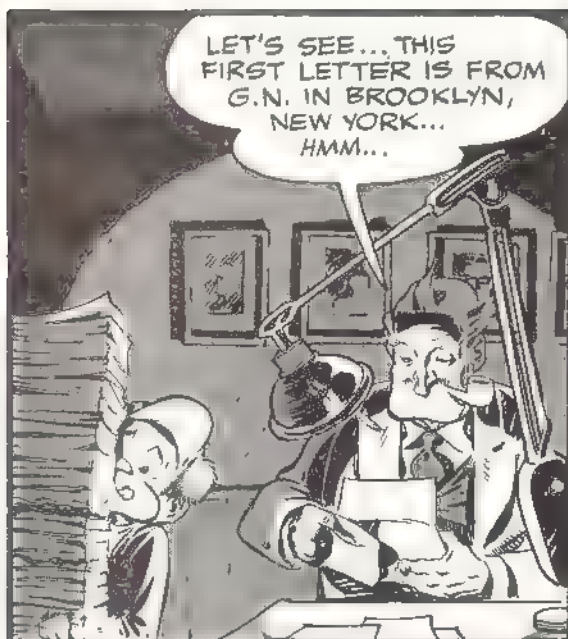


ER ...SEYMOUR WILL KICK FOR
THE EXTRA POINT TOMORROW,
FOLKS... HIS PARENTS JUST CAME
HOME..



Fan Mail



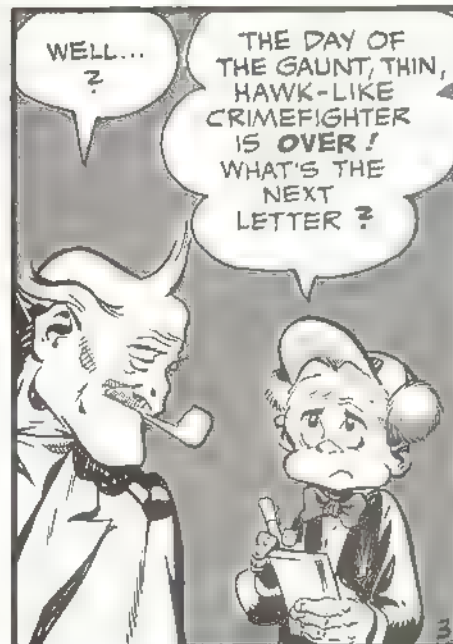
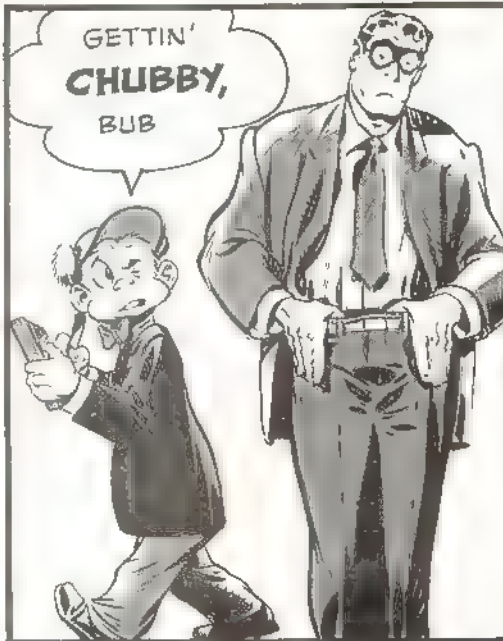
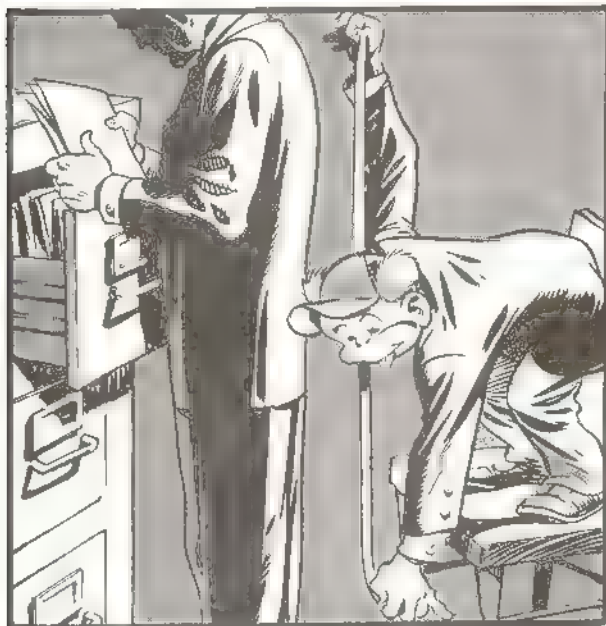
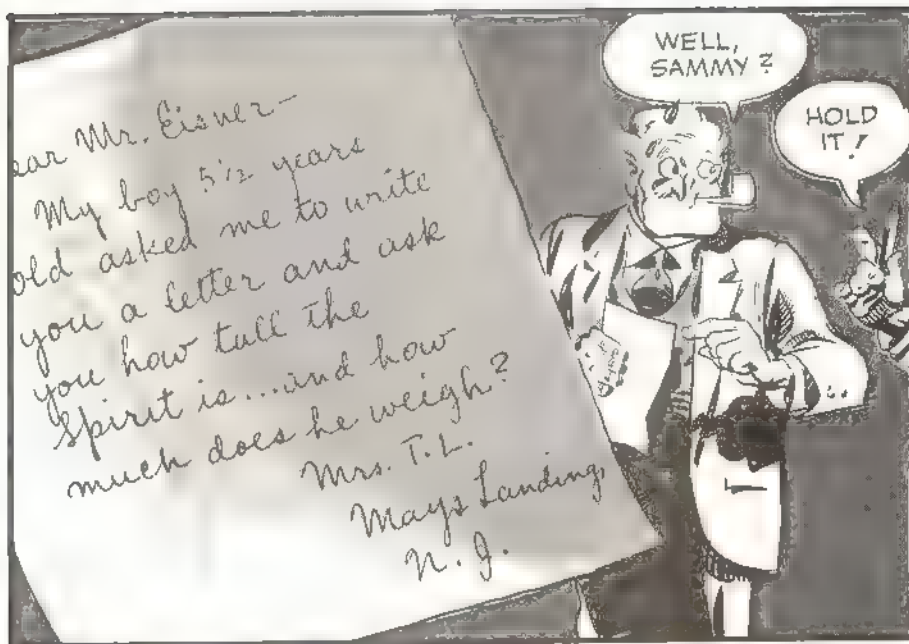


Dear Mr. Eisner.

Would you please write a story about the Spirit telling who he is. I would appreciate your telling about his origin and would you please send me a drawing of the Spirit.

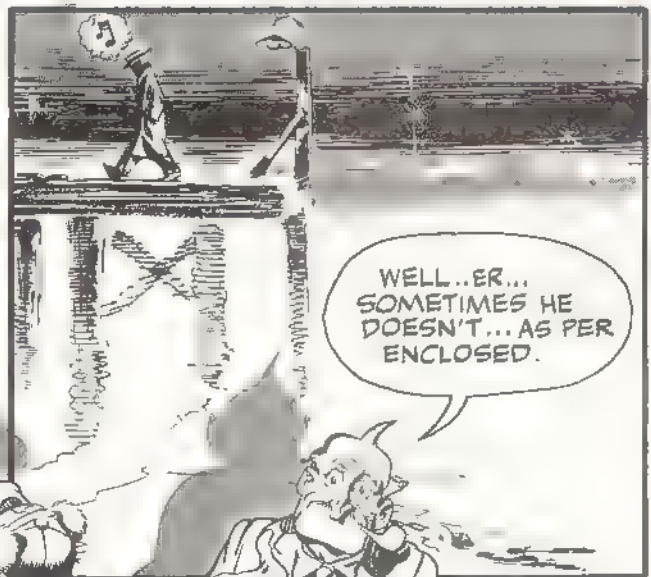
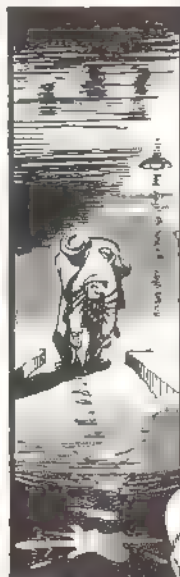
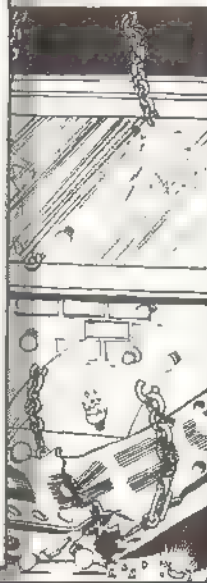
G.N.



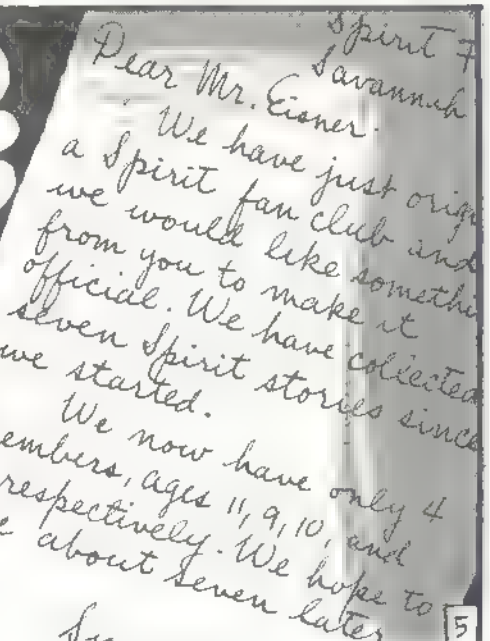
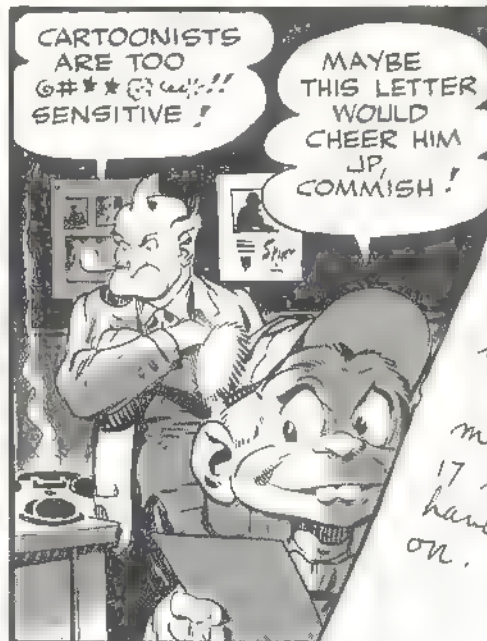
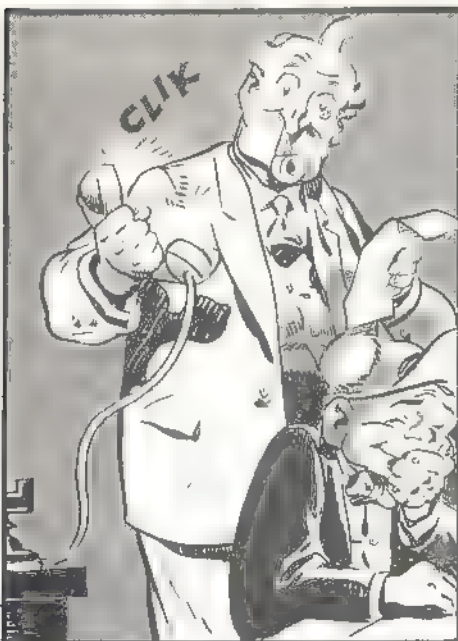
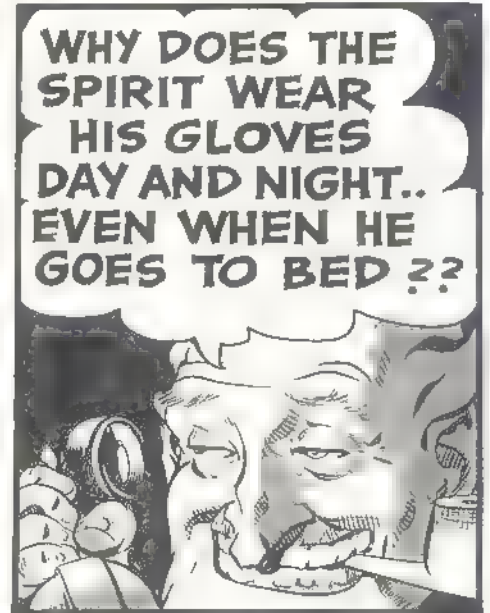
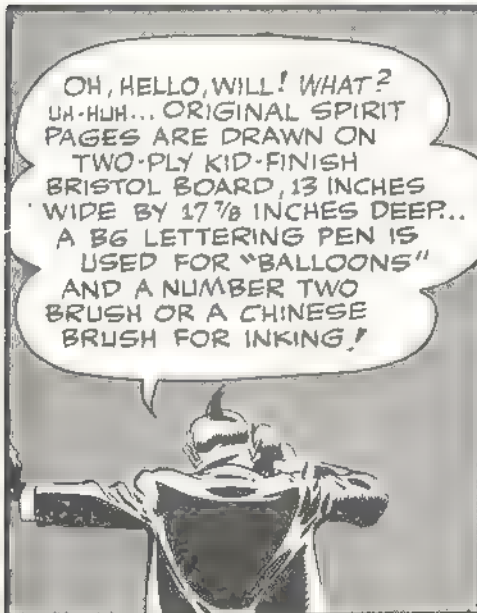
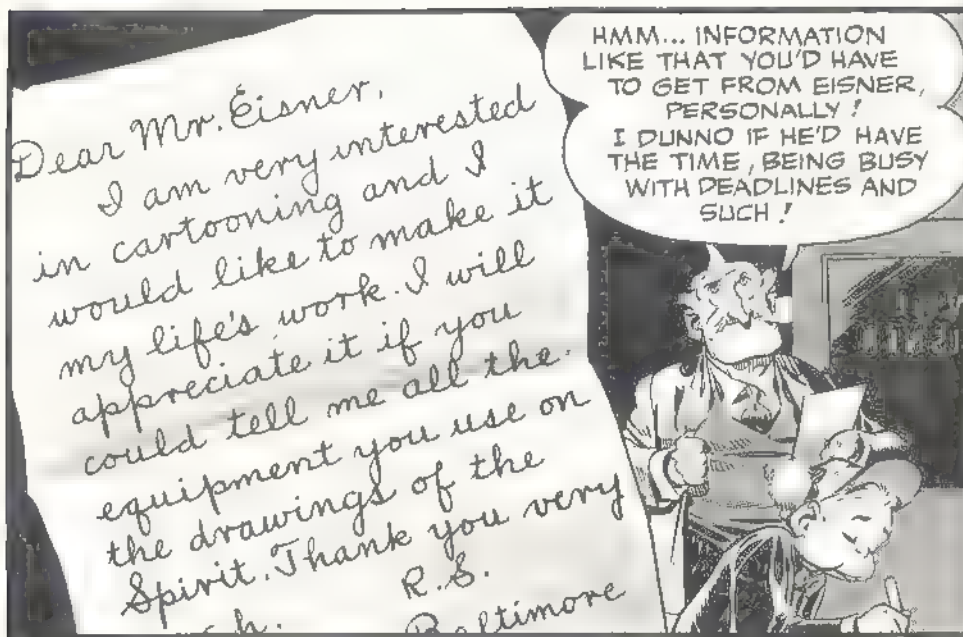


Dear Mr. Eisner -
Is it really true
that the Spirit never
carries a gun and if
so, how can he
possibly continue to
overcome well-armed
thugs?

Yours truly
A. J.
Newark, N. J.



WELL..ER...
SOMETIMES HE
DOESN'T... AS PER
ENCLOSED.

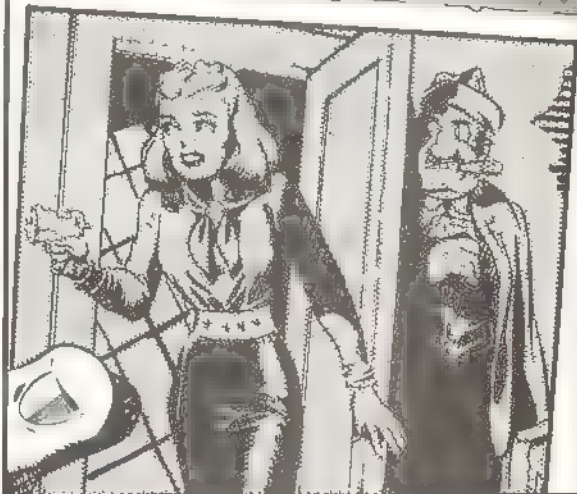


Dear Sir,

I'm writing this for three little girls aged 8, 9, and 11. They asked me to write and request that, in place of the regular Spirit comic strip one Sunday in the near future, you have drawings of all the girls that have been in the Spirit's life since you created the

WHEW!
THAT'LL TAKE
QUITE A
FEAT OF
MEMORY!

WELL, YOU ALL KNOW MY
DAUGHTER EILEEN... HEH HEH
SWEET AS CIDER BUT IMPULSIVE...



THEN THERE WAS THORNE...
HE MET HER LAST JANUARY...



AND MONICA VETO, WHO
TRIED T'MAKE THE
SPIRIT MAYOR...



AND AUTUMN MEWS, WHO
LATER GOT KILLED IN A
POLICE BARRAGE...



SATIN... THE BEAUTIFUL,
TROUBLED SATIN...



SALLY OF THE ISLANDS
AND LILLY LOTUS...
THE TWO WOMEN WHO
HAD SO MUCH T'DO
WITH HIS SOUTH SEA
ISLAND ADVENTURES...



AND OF COURSE...
P'GELL...!

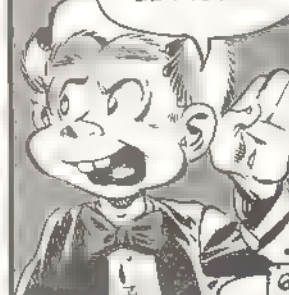
WONDER WHAT
HAPPENED TO HER
... WONDER WHAT
SHE'S DOING...
WONDER...



HEY
DOLAN!

SIGH...
HEY
DOLAN
!!

OH, WELL...
I'LL
GO ON TO
THE
NEXT
LETTER!

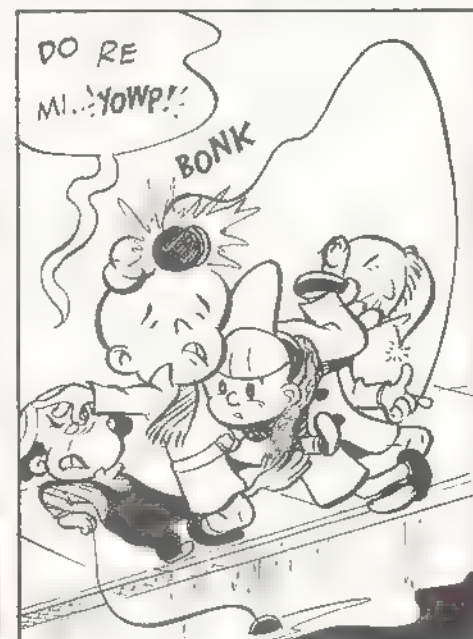
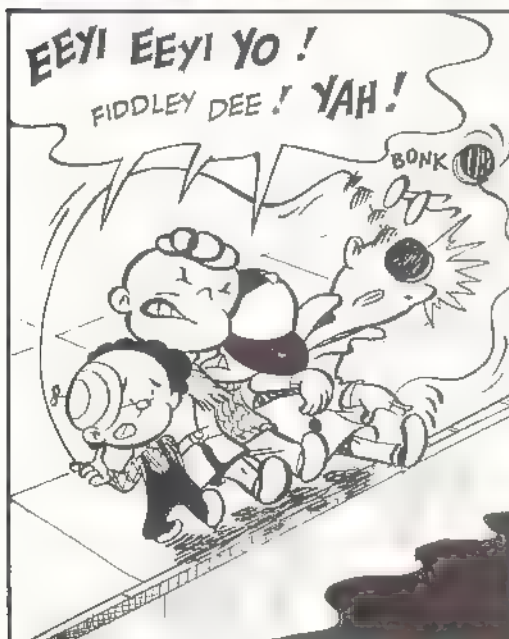






Clifford

BY JULES FEIFFER





The Magazine that tells the Truth and Nothing but the **WEIRD** Truth.

Issue No.2 of **Weird Trips** contains the true story of **Ed Gein**, the cannibal-murderer-transvestite-ghoul, whose discovery in 1957 exposed one of the ghastliest crimes of the century. **Dave Schreiner** tells the story of the crimes and provides a psychological profile of the region that **Gein** lived in. Also... an interview with **Bob Shea** and **Robert Anton Wilson**, authors of the **Illuminatus** trilogy and **Cosmic Trigger**. ...discussing earthly and unearthly conspiracies, extraterrestrial communication, life extension and immortality, and other far-ranging topics... Plus! **Greg Dempsey** offers an eye witness account of the California flood in early 1978 that left the streets of Tujunga littered with caskets and bodies from an improperly maintained cemetery. Illustrations by **Bil Stout**, **Joel Beck**, and **Peter Poplaski**.

Available now from your favorite comix dealer, or for \$1.30 postpaid from Kitchen Sink Enterprises, P.O. Box 7, Princeton, Wisconsin 54968.

**Now
Available...**

SPIRIT Subscrip- tions.

\$6/year



We always encourage our readers to support their local comic dealers who are an integral part of our alternative distribution system. But if you are not near a reliable source of comix, you may purchase books directly from us. And, in the case of THE SPIRIT, we are offering a Subscription--- One year (four issues) for \$6 postpaid. We also have copies of the last issue, No.17, in case you missed it. Use the coupon below or a facsimile...



Kitchen Sink Enterprises, Box 7, Princeton WI 54968.

- ☐ Enclosed is my check or money order for \$6.
Please send the next 4 issues of THE SPIRIT.
- ☐ Please send a copy of THE SPIRIT No.17. En-
closed is my check or money order for \$1.75.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

COMIX

If you enjoy reading **THE SPIRIT**, chances are you'll enjoy the following books by many of the foremost contemporary cartoonists. . .

1. **ARTISTIC COMICS.** A fat 56-page comic crammed with doodles, ideas, and drawings culled from the "secret sketch-books" of Robert Crumb. \$1.
2. **BAREFOOTZ No. 1.** A collection of comics by Howard Cruse, whom Mark Estren (author of *A History of Underground Comics*) called "The most refreshing of the underground cartoonists." A very funny book. Just 75 cents.
3. **BAREFOOTZ No. 2.** All NEW comix by Cruse, "One of the brightest lights ever to shine in the underground,"—columnists Don & Maggie Thompson. Only 75 cents. -
4. **BIZARRE SEX No. 5.** An outrageous assortment of material by Richard Corben, Joel Beck, Steve Stiles, Robert Crumb, Sharon Rudhal, Charles Dallas, and others. You must be 18. \$1.
5. **BIZARRE SEX No. 6.** Corben cover and contributions from Richards, Erling, Beck, Stiles, and others. Now, \$1.25. You must be 18 to order.
6. **COMPLEAT FART.** Everything you wanted to know about bodily emissions, drawn by a very funny woman, Lee Marrs, "In these exhausted, somewhat decadent times, a true Rabelaisian humor is more than welcome; nearly miraculous. She is really superb."—Gus Blaisdell. \$1. You must be 18.
7. **COMIX BOOK No. 4.** The result of a mixed marriage between Stan Lee's Marvel Comics and Denis Kitchen's Krupp Comics. A fat 68-page book with contributors like Leslie Cabarga, Howard Cruse, Kim Deitch, Justin Green, Willy Murphy, John Pound, Trina, Skip Williamson, Basil Wolverton, and many others. Only \$1.
8. **COMIX BOOK No. 5.** The "farewell issue." Howard Zimmerman, in *Rock Scene*, said "It's tight, fast-reading, and a fabulous combination of different heads and styles. It would have been a real coup for Marvel to have been associated with this issue; it's too bad they have spurned their young lover." Still \$1.
9. **CORPORATE CRIME.** All TRUE stories by 15 artists. A widely-praised book that provides education in an entertaining format. Contributors include Greg Irons, Trina, Leonard Rifas, Kim Deitch, Beck Wilson, R. Diggs, and others. A "comic" book that will make you think. \$1.
10. **DUTCH TREAT.** An anthology of the best cartoonists in art-rich Holland. Includes great homage to Carl Barks' ducks by Evert Geradts. \$1.

11. **FEVER DREAMS.** Classic science-fiction story by Richard Corben and Jan Strnad. Also "Unicorn" by John Adkins Richardson. \$1.

12. **HOME GROWN FUNNIES.** Robert Crumb's epic "Whiteman meets Bigfoot." The best-selling comic in Krupp's history. Now in its 11th printing! May soon be a motion picture. Just 75 cents.

13. **JOEL BECK'S COMICS.** Considered by many to be the first underground cartoonist. This book collects Joel's earliest (now very rare) material, plus a new story offering the truth behind "Smoky the Bear." \$1.



14. **KURTZMAN KOMIX.** The earliest works of Harvey (Mad) Kurtzman. With an introduction by Kurtzman discovery Robert Crumb. \$1.

15. **MICKEY RAT No. 2.** Robert Armstrong's decadent version of Disney's mouse. Just 75 cents.

16. **MR. NATURAL No. 3.** In this latest issue, Robert Crumb's popular guru is committed to an insane asylum by devotees Flakey Foont and Ruth Schwartz. Is this the end of The Natch? \$1.

17. **PEOPLE'S COMICS.** Includes "Fritz the Cat, Superstar." Creator Robert Crumb kills off Fritz for good. Other good stories too. Just 75 cents.

18. **SNARF No. 6.** Cover by Robert Crumb. Stuff by George Metzger, Jay Kinney, Justin Green, and others. "With issue No. 6, Denis Kitchen has turned SNARF into a contemporary ZAP, the



underground that started it all."—Howard Zimmerman. \$1.

19. **SNARF No. 7.** Cover by Art Spiegelman, with pieces from Kim Deitch, Joel Beck, Trina, Steve Stiles, Howard Cruse, and others. \$1.

20. **TRINA'S WOMEN.** A collection of Trina's own favorite stories. Includes *Panthea*, *Rosie the Riveter*, and "Lulu's Back in Town." 75 cents.

21. **XYZ COMICS.** "The last word in comics" from Robert Crumb. BoBo Belinski, Boingy Baxter, and much introspective material. 75 cents.

22. **CO-EVOLUTION QUARTERLY,** Summer 1977. Color Cover and inner story by Robert Crumb. And loads of important information from the Whole Earth Catalog people. Thick squareback, \$2.50.

23. **CO-EVOLUTION QUARTERLY,** Fall 1977. Stories by Crumb and Dan O'Neill and fascinating articles on a variety of subjects. Still \$2.50.

24. **BEST OF RIP-OFF PRESS, Vol. II.** A squareback collection of The Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers by Gilbert Shelton. \$3.95.

25. **WHOLE GRAINS.** An engrossing collection of memorable quotes compiled by Art Spiegelman. Covers Dope, Sex, Cheap Thrills, Mysticism, Existence, and what else is there? \$3.95.

26. **ARZACK.** Full color squareback collection of Moebius' fabulous stories from France's Metal Hurlant (Heavy Metal in America.) \$6.95.

27. **CARLOAD O' COMICS.** The first squareback collection of Robert Crumb's great comix. Includes a never-before-published 14-page "Mr. Snoid" story and a bibliography for hardcore fans. \$6.

With each order we include a FREE copy of the KRUPP MAIL ORDER CATALOG, listing hundreds of other available comics, paraphernalia, books, posters, and related items. Normally this fat catalog costs \$1.00 by itself!

Clip the coupon below. If you don't want to damage your copy of **THE SPIRIT**, simply list your selection(s) on a separate sheet. . .

KITCHEN SINK ENTERPRISES, Box 7, PRINCETON, WIS. 54968

Send the items circled. Enclosed is the total amount of the circled items plus 5% to cover postage. Thanks!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 Items mailed with 48 hours of receipt.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

